$45M budget for Hyatt renovations. PAGE 2
Damaged US sub in Guam after collision in South China Sea. PAGE 7

$1

Hafa Adai!

# Saipan Tribune

Volume XXXI, Issue No. 202

www.saipantribune.com
**TUESDAY** OCTOBER 12, 2021
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**SUMMER AUTO FEST**
Car enthusiasts and other members of the public check out the many vehicles on display last Saturday night at this year's Island Summer Auto Fest at the Marianas Business Plaza. The event, which was a showcase of many modified vehicles, also featured competitions. Also on display were a Tesla Model X and a 1965 Mustang Shelby GT350. ***More photos and competition results on Page 11.***

JOSHUA SANTOS

## AT A GLANCE

As of 7:04pm, Oct. 11, 2021

### VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population Fully Vaccinated: **82.7%**

Days since last community transmission: **201**

| Pfizer/BioNTech | |
|---|---|
| Initiated: | 30,231 |
| Fully Vaccinated: | 29,580 |
| **Moderna** | |
| Initiated: | 4,880 |
| Fully Vaccinated: | 4,671 |
| **Janssen** | |
| Fully Vaccinated: | 818 |

| GUAM | OLD | NEW | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|
| Positive | 16,058 | 218* | 16,276 |
| Recovered | 13,183 | 167 | 13,350 |
| Active | 2,494 | 131 | 2,712 |
| Deaths | 212 | 2 | 214 |

| SAIPAN | OLD | NEW | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|
| Positive | 277 | 0 | 277 |
| Traced via Travel Screening | 240 | 0 | 240 |
| Traced via Community Screening | 37 | 0 | 37 |
| Deaths | 3 | 0 | 3 |

*10/11=106; 10/10=61; 10/09=51
Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., https://www.vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

# Over 10K still unvaccinated

By JOSHUA SANTOS
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REPORTER

The high number of unvaccinated individuals in the CNMI—estimated at over 10,000 individuals—is still a cause for concern, according to Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther Muña last Friday.

## » 'Unvaccinated people still remain the greatest concern'

Speaking on the radio as part of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' weekly media briefing, Muña said that 87% of the CNMI's eligible adults have so far already received the first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, but there are still over 10,000 unvaccinated individuals in the CNMI.

While an 80% vaccinated threshold has been the CNMI's goal in order to start claiming herd immunity against COVID-19, the focus now is on

See OVER on Page 4

# CEC: Good turnout at early voting

## » 555 voted in past 3 days of 7-day early voting

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A total of 555 individuals voted in the past three days of the seven-day early voting for the special election at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. The Commonwealth Election Commission considers the number a good turnout.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres also advised Friday all Precinct 3 voters to exercise their right to vote, saying this special election is just as impor-

See CEC on Page 4

# Ex-cop gets over 8-year sentence for possession of child porn

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The U.S. District Court for the NMI has sentenced a former Department of Public Safety traffic division officer to over eight years in prison for possessing child pornography.

Edjay Jaime Sablan, who graduated at the top of his

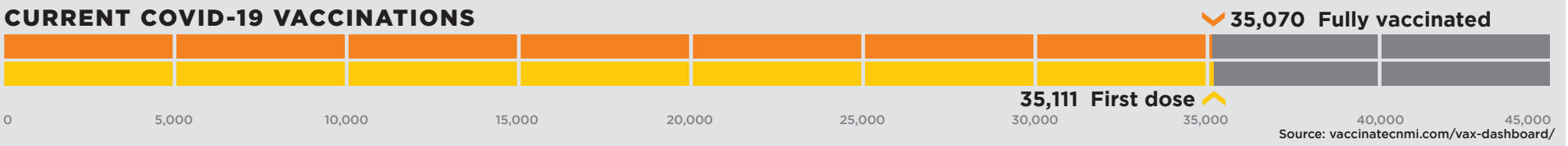
See EX-COP on Page 4

## COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

**LEGEND:**
**Red:** Least safe
**Orange**
**Yellow**
**Blue**
**Green:** Safest

*Source: Office of the Governor*

### CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS




Source: vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

## INSIDE

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McDonald's Saipan and Guam are giving them free breakfast meals to all CNMI educators.
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Small businesses are striking a balance between staying safe and getting back to business.
PAGE 12

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After over 18 months of delays, "No Time to Die" opened on target, grossing $56 million.
PAGE 15

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# Local

From left, Department of Public Lands Secretary Sixto Igisomar, Governor's Council of Economic Advisers co-chair Jerry Tan, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, GCEA board member Alex Sablan, and Hyatt Regency Saipan general manager Nick Nishikawa exchange pleasantries at the lease renewal ceremony last Friday at the Miyako Restaurant, Hyatt Regency Saipan in Garapan. BEA CABRERA

# $45M budget for Hyatt renovations

By BEA CABRERA
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CORRESPONDENT

With a new 40-year land lease in hand, Hyatt Regency Saipan will soon move to its next step: putting together a team to plan the hotel's renovations to match the Hyatt worldwide standards.

As part of the lease contract agreement, which was signed only last Friday, Oct. 8, 2021, a total of $45 million is being set aside for the construction and renovation of Hyatt—a move that is intended to update and upgrade the amenities at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Hyatt general manager Nick Nishikawa said he will be flying to Japan within the month to meet with the management of Kobe Portopia Hotel Corp., which owns the Hyatt Regency Saipan, to start talking about renovation plans.

"They are waiting for this moment actually (signing of lease renewal) because after this, we can start looking at renovating the hotel. They have begun initial talks with the Hyatt design team based in Hong Kong. This team has to come here and assess the hotel property," he said.

"After assessment, they need to appoint a designer to plan how our future rooms, restaurants, etc. will look like. After that, they have to appoint a construction company and from after all of those are accomplished, we will have schedule for construction and renovation," he added.

Over the years, Hyatt Regency Saipan has been wanting to update and improve its rooms, facilities and premises but could not get the ball rolling unless a new lease has been signed. The hotel turns 41 years old in December.

Nishikawa said he is aware of the many reviews from tourists on Trip Advisor and similar platforms about the plight of outdated rooms at the Hyatt. In an earlier interview, Nishikawa himself said that when he first stepped into the hotel 13 years ago, his first impression was that the design and structure are old and not at par with Hyatt standards around the world. "…This is something that we definitely want to address but the priority was to get the land lease renewal first," he said. "I tell you, when we renovate using the Hyatt design team and technical service…this hotel is going to be fantastic. …I hope the people of the CNMI want to see the new Hyatt."

Governor's Council of Economic Advisers co-chair Jerry Tan, who was present at the lease renewal ceremony last Friday, has high hopes about getting the Japanese tourists back now that Hyatt is set to stay for another 40 years. "We have been working so hard to get back the Japan market. … We finally got Skymark Airlines, but when the pandemic hit, flights were cancelled. … The Hyatt lease renewal is more than that as they are, first, an important and major Japanese investor in the CNMI and, second, they will help further in our efforts to get back the Japanese tourists," he said.

He said the GCEA has always emphasized quality over quantity in terms of tourists and the importance of good branding is important for the CNMI's tourism industry. "For many years, Hyatt was the only international [hotel] brand [in the CNMI] and to be able to keep them is very strategic. … Hyatt, together with another international brand, Crowne Plaza Resort, will definitely elevate the CNMI into a world-class destination," Tan said.

"There are other destinations that have several international hotel brands so we cannot simply lose Hyatt. … While we are working to get more brands to come here, Hyatt will continue to help our tourism industry grow and be successful," Tan added.

When asked if Hyatt will temporarily close while renovation is ongoing, Nishikawa said that he doesn't think so. "We will probably do it in phases…because we have to cater to the demands of the business and community. But definitely, we need to renovate the rooms first."

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# ‘Since Day 1, our concern has been finding revenue for retirees’

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Since the start of his administration, they made it a priority to come up with the $40 million minimum annual payment for retirees and that the whole reason why they passed the casino gaming bill, according to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres last Friday.

When asked for comments during a radio press briefing about Sen. Paul A. Manglona’s (Ind-Rota) concern about finding resources for the retirees, Torres pointed out that at the time when they decided to take on the casino industry, the reason was to provide resources for the retirees. Yet at that time, Manglona opposed the casino industry, Torres said. In response to criticisms at that time, Torres said they urged critics to come up with another industry that will substitute the gaming industry to pay the retirees.

“We took that initiative. We passed the gaming bill in hopes that if this is successful, this will pay for the retirees,” Torres said.

Torres

With the casino industry, through casino licensee Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC, the government managed to pay the retirees in the last several years, the governor said.

Noting that finding resources for the retirees has always been their concern, Torres asked Manglona what his solution is, now that the Commonwealth Casino Commission is seeking to revoke IPI’s gaming license.

At a recent Senate session, Manglona said the CCC’s move to revoke IPI’s casino license is concerning as this means the government will struggle starting next year with paying the $40 million minimum annual payment to the NMI Settlement Fund.

The senator said the CNMI may be fortunate this year to have the American Rescue Plan Act money to subsidize government operations across the board, but it appears the CNMI maybe going back in the coming years to when it was plagued with lack of revenues.

The Settlement Fund is obligated to pay CNMI retirees 75% of their benefit payments. The government has the discretion but is not obligated to cover the remaining 25% balance.

Settlement Fund trustee Joyce C.H. Tang has repeatedly praised the dedication of the Torres-Palacios administration for finding ways to continue to make the government’s 25% contribution even in these challenging times.

## PSS project to install solar panels in all schools will be set a precedent–Orsini

By JOSHUA SANTOS
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REPORTER

The CNMI Public School System’s project to have all CNMI public schools powered by solar energy will set a precedent for other school systems in the Micronesia region, according to Board of Education chair Andrew L. Orsini.

Orsini

Orsini also said in an interview with him last Thursday that PSS generating and consuming its own electricity will help mitigate learning loss during periods of recovery following natural disasters.

“This is [an achievement] for our school system, and this is now a precedent that we’re setting. Because of our geographical location, typhoons do come, so we need to be prepared. This [project] would really help us a lot, especially during the time of recovery after a [natural] disaster. My [main] concern is more of the learning loss. We want to reduce that and keep [our students] up to speed with their education and that’s all it is,” said Orsini.

He also cited Public Law 18-75, a 2015 law that set PSS on its way to making the solar panel project a reality, and the ultimate goal of reducing the utility costs PSS owes the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., thus ensuring in part that PSS maintains financial stability.

“PSS is a non-generating entity. ...We have to be concerned about our financial standing to make sure that we keep developing toward what we have to do, and that’s to educate our children,” said Orsini.

Last Thursday at Marianas High School, PSS held a launch ceremony to officially mark the beginning of a project to install solar panels in all CNMI public schools by next year.

## Tasi to Table leadership, students preparing for a year of activities

By JOSHUA SANTOS
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REPORTER

Tasi to Table has lined up many events for its 100-plus student participants this school year from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, and anticipates another successful year for the organization.

That success was presaged by a meet-and-greet event that TTT held at Kagman High School last Oct. 2 for the organization’s Saipan, Tinian, and Rota students.

TTT president Gene Weaver said that student numbers at the meet-and-greet, as well as student participation this school year overall, surpassed his expectations. “Last year, we hardly filled up [the cafeteria]. This year, it was packed. We more than doubled our numbers in some schools, and in other schools tripled our numbers. I’m excited, and I’m proud to be part of TTT and to know that we’re doing something for these kids,” he said.

TTT vice president Wayne Pangelinan said that TTT is “starting off very strong” this year. “We’re starting off very strong, and I hope our community sees what we’re trying to do. [TTT is] not just for us, it’s for the youth that’s going to carry us in the future,” said Pangelinan. “It’s really about giving the kids opportunities to see what’s available, and maybe they might get into these fields. And that’s what we want. If we can get [even] one of these kids off to university doing what we’ve taught them, we’ve succeeded.”

Pangelinan said that a part of this year’s student program will feature a scientific focus, with Micronesian Environmental Services and the Northern Marianas College’s Cooperative Research, Extension & Education Services being involved.

Da’Ok Academy teacher and third-year TTT adviser Joan Reyes said in an earlier interview that she looks forward to another year of being involved with TTT. The first iteration of TTT’s eight-month student program was launched with a pilot program at Da’Ok Academy in 2019.

Witnessing firsthand the rapid growth of TTT over the last three years, Reyes said she enjoys the “feeling” of seeing her students grow and develop through participating in the program.

“It’s just that feeling, that feeling that the kids grew,

See TASI on Page 4

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# Japan golfers show interest in the CNMI

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

Japanese golfers are starting to show some interest in returning to Saipan after over a year-long pause as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to Viola Alepuyo, Marianas Visitors Authority board chair, high-end Japanese visitors who are interested in golfing have shown an interest in Saipan as a destination, with the winter months fast approaching.

"The request that have come in have been [from] a lot of high-end Japanese visitors, the golfers. Their interest is in staying for no less than two weeks, maybe up to even two months. Especially with the winter season coming up, there's a lot of interest in coming to Saipan. They're even willing to fly from Japan through Guam to get here, but that's not something we want to encourage. We want to look at other options to have them come here directly from Japan, as opposed to through Guam because of the situation with COVID," she said.

One of the solutions MVA is looking at, Alepuyo said, is to look at airlines that are willing to service a Japan-South Korea-Saipan route to eliminate stop-overs in Guam.

"That's one of the things that we're exploring," she said.

Meanwhile, TRIP Korea chair Ivan Quichocho said discussions are ongoing between MVA's Japan partners and TRIP Japan chair Nick Nishikawa on how to approach a Travel Bubble type program between Saipan and Japan.

Currently, one of the approaches discussed was, unlike the South Korea Travel Bubble, Japan wants to utilize their vaccine passports to opt out of mandatory quarantine.

However, Quichocho said it's difficult to promise that because aside from the fact that it's not MVA's call, vaccination rates could still be different in the next few months.

"Right now, Japan is over 50% vaccinated and they anticipate they'll be 70% by the end of October and they'll likely to be over 80% in November. The Japan market, unlike Korea, wants to utilize their vaccination rate and vaccine passport, to be able to come in and potentially consider a quarantine-free entry. Since the target launch date is November/December, it's very difficult for us to try and say 'Okay, that's the plan' because that's not within our wheelhouse," he said.

Commonwealth Election Commission staff entertain a Precinct 3 voter last Saturday during the first day of the seven-day early voting for special election at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. A total of 555 voted in the past three days. FERDIE DE LA TORRE

## CEC

From Page 1

tant as every other election in the CNMI. "I want to wish everyone luck," he said.

The governor urged voters to consider voting early throughout the week. Early voting for the special election started last Saturday.

Torres said if voters can't make it throughout the week of early voting, then they should exercise their right to vote on election day itself, Saturday, Oct. 16.

CEC executive director Kayla S. Igitol said yesterday that 211 voted on the first day of early voting, Saturday, and 111 on Sunday. Igitol said it was much better yesterday, a holiday, as 233 came in, bringing the total of voters these past three days to 555.

"I consider that a good turnout, considering it's only been three days but we have four more days to go. So it should start picking up by then," she said.

Corina L. Magofna of the NMI Democratic Party and Grace "Pitu" Sablan Vaiagae of the NMI Republican Party are vying to fill the House of Representatives Precinct 3 seat left vacant by the sudden passing of representative Ivan A. Blanco last July 23.

Vaiagae voted last Saturday. Magofna is going to vote this Saturday.

Precinct 3 has 3,613 registered voters.

For the special election day this Saturday, the designated polling places are:

- Oleai Elementary School cafeteria for Precinct 3A (San Jose).
- Garapan Elementary School cafeteria for Precincts 3B-1 (Garapan) and 3B-2 (Garapan).

Voters must ensure that they bring with them a pictured identification card as they will be required to present it in order to be issued a ballot at the polling sites.

## TASI

From Page 3

thanks to Tasi to Table, and I want to continue that feeling. ...Besides the growth in student numbers, [TTT] is known now in the community, and we have a lot of support [now] from the government and private sector. … The kids continue to tell me, 'Miss, I'm so glad I was a part of the program. I caught my first fish [through TTT]', and that's our main goal," she added.

Also in an interview earlier this month, Heavenly Pangelinan, who is a Marianas High School student and first-time member of TTT this school year, said she is very excited to be connected to her culture through fishing. "It's my first time being in the program, and I'm really excited because I just moved here and it's good to know that I'll be more connected with my culture," she said.

JP Merza, who is a Tinian Jr./Sr. High School student and a second-year TTT member, said that TTT taught him many things, but above all, it was through fishing that he learned patience. Merza was one of 12 Tinian students that participated in a four-month pilot program that TTT launched on Tinian last year.

"I've experienced so many things that changed me in a way. …I never thought that fishing would be one of my hobbies, I thought it was boring at first. I used to lack patience, but fishing taught me that it's okay to wait, and [that] patience is a core value that will help us in our everyday lives," he said.

Tasi to Table is a program that seeks to instill the love of fishing and the sea among the youth while also allowing participants to earn elective high school credits through eight-month programs on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. During these eight-month programs, students will be exposed to lessons in sustainable fishing practices, boating safety, fishing rod and reel maintenance, and other fishing-related topics of interest.

## OVER

From Page 1

reducing the number of unvaccinated individuals who are at risk of contracting and spreading COVID-19, she said.

"We want to see an increase in [vaccination] numbers, of course. We always talk about herd immunity, but really the [goal] is to try to minimize infection and death within the community. We're urging everyone, and if you know someone that has not been vaccinated, please continue to urge them [to] get vaccinated. It is free, it is easy, and it'll take [around] 10 minutes to enroll in the system," said Muña.

Herd immunity refers to a form of indirect disease/infection protection that is achieved when a certain percentage of a population has become immune to an infection either through vaccination or past exposure to an infection/disease, reducing the chances of community spread and allowing those with no immunity to remain healthy without receiving a vaccine shot or being exposed to the disease.

In the case of the CNMI's third COVID-19-related death, Muña said the patient "met the criteria to be discharged. Unfortunately, he did return [to the Commonwealth Health Center] ] and had more complications related to COVID-19-pneumonia."

On Oct. 7, CHCC announced that the case involved a vaccinated male and CNMI resident with underlying health conditions who passed away sometime in October. He was identified by travel screening and tested positive for COVID-19 in August. He was admitted to the hospital, deemed recovered, and was discharged from CHC in early September. The man was then readmitted to CHC shortly after due to complications related to COVID-19 pneumonia.

Muña said that she and the CNMI's other health policy leaders will continue to maintain due diligence, and continue to protect the CNMI from the spread of COVID-19.

"We want to be extra careful, [and] we want to continue to do our due diligence to protect the CNMI from [spreading COVID-19] into the community, and that's what we've been trying to do. As [Office of the Governor chief of staff William M. Castro and Gov. Ralph DLG Torres] have said, we are safe, but we're not safe if we are opening our borders without any protocols that protect us," she said.

## EX-COP

From Page 1

class during the 23rd cycle of the DPS Police Academy, was sentenced to a 97-month imprisonment term, or just a little over eight years. He was given credit for time served.

U.,S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona ordered Sablan to submit to five years supervised release and comply with many conditions, which include 40 hours of community service at the direction of the U.S. Probation Office, following the completion of his over eight-year prison sentence.

Other special conditions Sablan must abide with following his release include having no direct contact with any child under the age of 18 without the permission of the probation officer.

Sablan is also prohibited from going to or remaining in any place where children under the age of 18 are likely to be, including parks, schools, playgrounds, and childcare facilities.

Also, the court prohibited Sablan from working in an occupation, business, profession, or volunteer activity that would require or enable him to have direct contact with children under the age of 18 without prior approval of the probation officer.

The court also ordered Sablan to allow the probation officer to install a computer monitoring software on any computer he owns and to submit his computers, or other electronic communications or data storage devices or media, to a search.

In addition, Manglona ordered Sablan to pay a special assessment fee of $100, which must be paid immediately after sentencing.

After the sentencing, Sablan was remanded to the custody of the U.S. Marshals Service.

According to documents, Sablan pleaded guilty last June 3, 2021. The court unsealed the indictment against him following his change of plea hearing.

Based on the indictment, Sablan was originally charged with one count of child pornography and one count of receipt of child pornography back on Jan. 20, 2021.

After pleading guilty to one count of child pornography in June, Manglona dismissed the second charge.

The indictment stated that on or about Jan. 6, 2021, Sablan was found in possession of sexually explicit videos involving minors that he had downloaded over the internet. "On or about Jan. 6, 2021, the defendant knowingly possessed a laptop computer, which contained over 75 video files depicting child pornography," the document stated.

The indictment also stated that on or about Nov. 4, 2019, Sablan knowingly received child pornography via the internet.

# McDonald's serves free breakfast meals to CNMI educators

By BEA CABRERA
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CORRESPONDENT

McDonald's restaurants across the United States and its territories, including in the CNMI and Guam, are saying thank you to educators in the best way they know how—giving them free breakfast meals.

The promo, which started yesterday and will run until Friday, gives all employees of the Public School System and private schools fresh and hot breakfast meals that will start their day right.

McDonald's executive assistant to the president Natalie Mable A. Glenn said that recognizing a sector in the community is not something new to McDonald's as they are always involved in giving back.

"We are really happy to be announcing this week this offering called 'A Thank You Meal for Educators.' Last year we gave away 'Thank You' meals for all our front-liners for one week and this is something similar. Starting Monday until Friday, Oct. 15, anyone who is an educator, principal, vice principal, teachers, and staff can come and visit any of our McDonald's outlets [on] Saipan and [in] Guam and avail of a free breakfast meal that is on us," she said.

"All they have to do is to show their ID or wear their uniform. …This is a national effort by McDonald's U.S. for the U.S. market and we are happy to be a part of that. In the CNMI, we feel it a lot more because we have been really connected and committed to education. McDonald's CNMI and Guam owner/operators feel that education is the No. 1 thing that can drive us and change forward, that's why we always grab the chance when there is an opportunity to do a campaign around education," she added.

There are three "thank you" breakfast meals to choose from: Egg McMuffin with hash brown and medium coffee, sausage biscuit with hash brown and medium coffee, or bacon egg cheese biscuit with hash brown and medium coffee. These are available for dine-in, take-out, drive-thru except through the mobile app because IDs need to be verified.

Northern Marianas College president Galvin Deleon Guerrero said that CNMI educators have indeed gone through so much—the pandemic and two super typhoons not too long ago. "Now that we are transitioning back to face-to- face classes and making sure that everyone is safe, this is a nice treat to everyone. Before, you can stay at home and eat cereal but now, you get to make it to work and this is a great way to encourage everyone to get back to school and the classroom," he said.

From left: Oleia Elementary School principal Jasylene Parico, Oleai Elementary School vice principal Alisa Ann Pangelinan, Public School System department chair Velma Deleon Guerrero, Northern Marianas College president Galvin Deleon Guerrero, McDonald's executive assistant to the president Natalie Mable A. Glenn, acting Education commissioner Eric Magofna, PSS Federal Program officer Tim Thornburgh, Northern Marianas College vice president Frankie Eliptico, and Marianas High School principal Davis Aguon at the launch of McDonald's Thank You Breakfast Meal yesterday at McDonald's Chalan Lau Lau.
BEA CABRERA

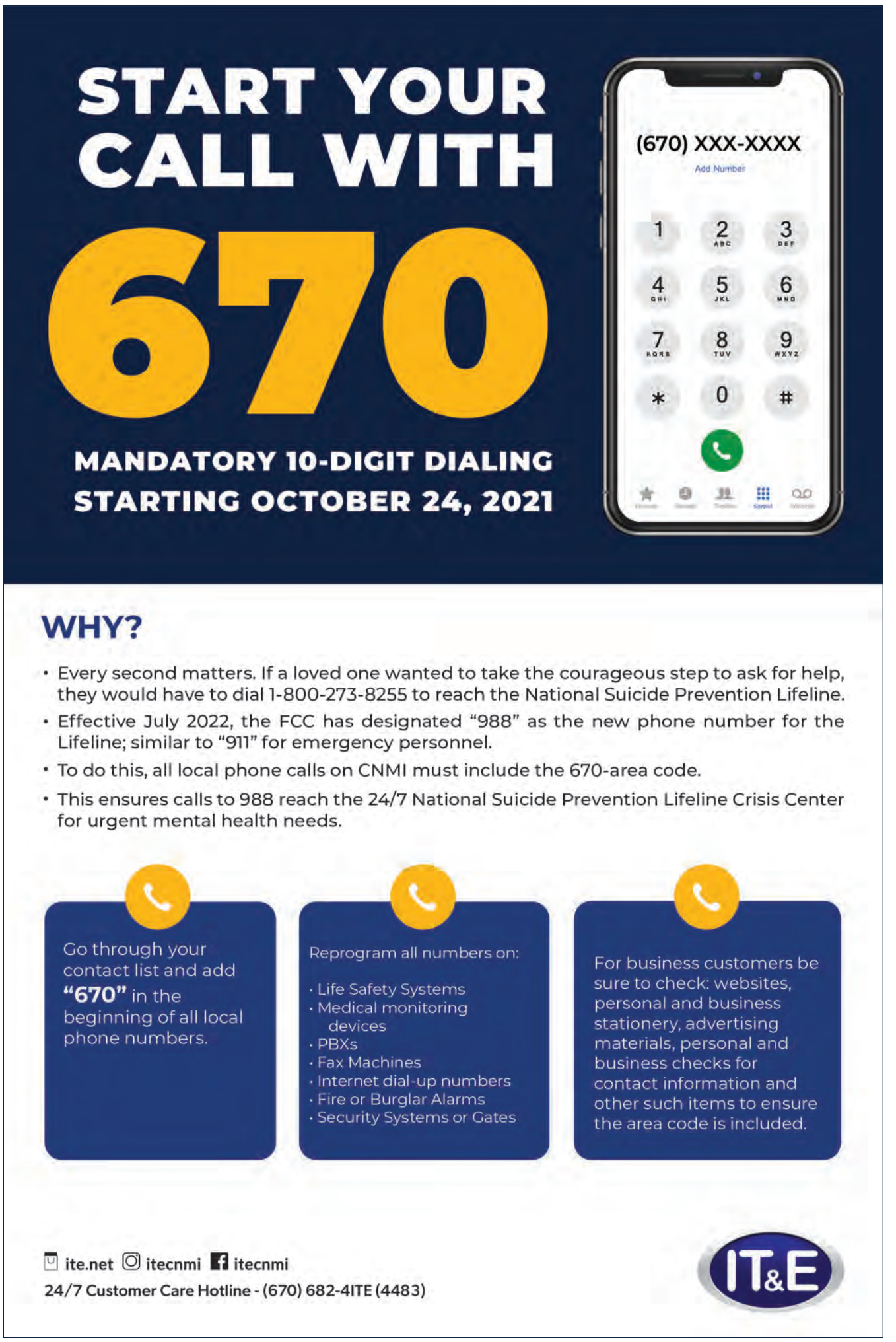
"McDonald's have been at the frontline since Day 1 and keeping people fed during a pandemic has been important. The 'Thank You Breakfast Meal' for educators is a great treat from one family to another family of front-liners and we really appreciate McDonald's and Mr. and Mrs. Ayuyu for their leadership because they understand what it is like to be in the frontlines, implementing mitigation protocols and tryng to ensure that everyone is safe and happy," he added.

Acting Education commissioner Eric Magofna said that McDonald's has been supportive and helpful of the many PSS programs. "This 'Thank You Breakfast Meal' offering is another chance for McDonald's to reach out and help PSS. We appreciate it and the timing is perfect for PSS as we are about to begin our Education Month where we highlight all our educators."

"PSS overall has around 1,000 staff and employees who can enjoy a free breakfast meal every day. We know we have a lot of employees and for McDonald's to take on this is a really great gesture for the school community," he added.

Jasylene Parico, principal of Oleai Elementary School, said they appreciate this act of kindness for CNMI educators. "We encourage everyone in public and private education to come by and take part in this special offering and to give their support to McDonald's as well. This is a partner in education that we want to value so it works both ways," she said.

Glenn said it is fitting to recognize hardworking people in the Marianas, especially educators. "We really want to express our heartfelt thank you for to all of them withstanding all the challenges that the pandemic has brought to our community this past year. … McDonald's CNMI and Guam are glad to put educators at the forefront and remind them that they fill an important roles, especially at this time."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24/7 Customer Care Hotline - (670) 682-4ITE (4483)
IT&E

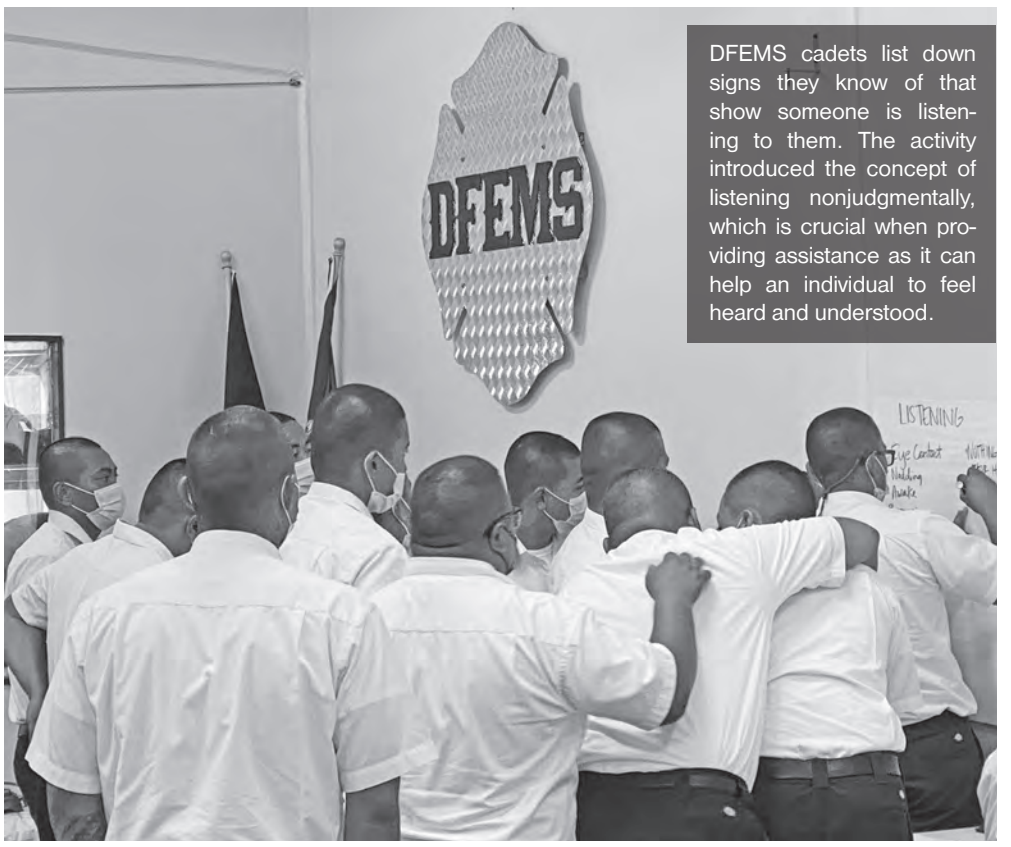
# CGC certifies 37 DFEMS cadets in Mental Health First Aid

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Community Guidance Center recently certified 37 Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services cadets in Youth Mental Health First Aid, as well as shared a presentation on stress management.

Cadets of the 14th cycle of the fire academy learned about the different types of stress, how to control their reactions to stress, and coping skills and strategies to increase resilience toward stress.

The recently completed MHFA training marks the 12th MHFA training this calendar year. The CGC has certified 1,159 individuals in the CNMI, Palau, and Guam in either the MHFA youth curriculum, adult curriculum, or both.

The Youth MHFA is an evidence-based, public education program that teaches participants how to identify, understand, and respond to signs of mental illness and substance use disorders in youth. The training gives adults who work with youth the skills they need to reach out and provide initial support to children and adolescents who may be developing a mental health or substance use problem, and help connect them to the appropriate care.




DFEMS cadets list down signs they know of that show someone is listening to them. The activity introduced the concept of listening nonjudgmentally, which is crucial when providing assistance as it can help an individual to feel heard and understood.

The Youth MHFA introduces common mental health challenges for youth, reviews typical adolescent development, teaches a 5-step action plan for how to help young people in both crisis and non-crisis situations, and highlights the importance of self-care for the mental health first aider. Training includes topics on anxiety, depression, substance use, eating disorders, and attention deficit hyperactive disorder.

The stress management presentation was led by CGC's Leiseschangmwar Iguel, Elora Masga, and Kimberly S. Tudela; and the Youth MHFA training was led by CGC's Guadalupe Camacho and Becky Dania Mettao. Both events took place at the DFEMS Training Center on Capital Hill.

For more information on MHFA, visit https://www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org. ***(PR)***

# Prosecution moves to dismiss child abuse case vs deceased defendant

**By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The prosecution in the case involving a woman who was charged with child abuse over the death of a 3-year-old child has filed a motion with the Superior Court to dismiss the case because the defendant has already passed away.

Last week, assistant attorney general Coleen St. Clair filed a motion to dismiss with prejudice the child abuse charge against Lana Lynn Limes Fitial who passed away from cancer back on Aug. 3, 2021.

Fitial's lawyer, assistant public defender Vina Seelam, stated that she learned on May 28, 2021 that the defendant had been diagnosed with stage IV oral cancer.

On June 1, 2021, Seelam said she received a letter from an oncologist, Dr. Peter Brett, indicating that he would be referring Fitial for surgery and radiation treatment in Los Angeles within the next few weeks.

Based on this information, the parties agreed that the jury trial and all associated dates should be vacated.

Fitial, 45, was one of two women who were arrested following the death of the 3-year-old boy in March 2020. Fitial's partner, Stacey Laniyo, 37, is the other defendant in the case. Fitial and Laniyo were charged with one count of child abuse each.

The boy was an adopted son of Fitial and was in the care of Laniyo.

According to court documents, Fitial failed to provide medical care for the boy resulting in his death.

As for Laniyo, she was found guilty of hitting the boy—either with a tree branch, a broom, or her hand—or of biting him, resulting in injury clearly beyond the scope of reasonable corporal punishment and harming or threatening the child's physical or mental health and well-being.

Back in June this year, Laniyo was found guilty of one count of child abuse by a jury and was remanded to the custody of the Department of Correction following the issuance of the jury's verdict.

Laniyo, through attorney Mark Scoggins, filed a motion for a new trial back on July 1, alleging that she did not receive a fair trial because of prosecutorial misconduct.

# PATA Micronesia sets virtual GMM on Oct. 15

The first general membership meeting of 2021 for the Pacific Asia Travel Association Micronesia Chapter will be held on Oct. 15, 2021, at 9am Chamorro Standard Time. The meeting will be conducted virtually via Zoom: https://us-02web.zoom.us/j/85318782820?pwd=YVhTMWVOb3FtQ2Q1UDZ1WGVEQ25qZz09.

The meeting agenda will include updates from tourism offices of Palau, Yap, the CNMI, Guam, Chuuk, Pohnpei, Kosrae, and the Marshall Islands.

Later that day, the chapter will convene its "Pearls of Wisdom" Forum at 1:30pm Chamorro Standard Time. Three of PATA Micronesia's member islands—the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, Guam and the Republic of Palau—will share their respective COVID-safe and travel-safe programs and strategies to help safeguard their residents and to provide incentives to bring visitors back.

Following the panel presentations, the forum's keynote, Dr. Fred R. Schumann, will present Strategies to Rebuild Tourism for the Future in Micronesia: Capitalizing on New Opportunities. A professor of Global Resources Management in the School of Business and Public Administration at the University of Guam, Schumann's keynote will focus on identifying unique destination attractions, products, and services with a fresh, new perspective.

PATA is a membership association acting as a catalyst for the responsible development of the Asia Pacific travel and tourism industry. The PATA Micronesia Chapter consists of members from the Micronesia region working directly in the tourism industry, including national and state tourism offices.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, in partnership with PATA Micronesia's private and public-sector members, the organization strove to enhance the sustainable growth, value and quality of travel and tourism to, from, and within the region. Due to this global crisis, the chapter's board and committees have only managed to meet virtually all throughout the year but continue to promote the destination online at www.micronesiatour.com and its various social media platforms. ***(PR)***

**COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY**
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

**JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 05-2021**

**Opening date: October 11, 2021 Closing date: October 29, 2021**

Positions: (3) Custodial-I (Saipan)
(1) Maintenance/Custodial-I (CPA Rota)
(1) Ports Police/ARFF-I (CPA Tinian)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the ***CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport.*** Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than **5:00 P.M. on Friday, October 29, 2021.**

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin. Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.tenorio@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

**COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY**
MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055•SAIPAN•MP•96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 | FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
E-MAIL ADDRESS: CPA.ADMIN@PTICOM.COM | WEBSITE: WWW.CNMIPORTS.COM

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**
**CURRENCY EXCHANGE SERVICES**
**FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

**Project No.: CPA-RFP-001-21**
**CPA Concession No.: SCX-2021-01**

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (the "CPA") is accepting sealed proposals, subject to the terms and conditions of the Request for Proposals (the "RFP"), and other contract provisions, for proposals from firms, companies, and/or corporations for currency exchange services at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. This concession is for the exclusive right to offer currency exchange, travel insurance, and other related services as applicable, including, but not limited to, the sale and purchase of foreign currency banknotes, drafts, money transfer, travelers check, and any other travel related products that are not related products precluded by other concessionaire agreements in the Airport.

The RFP will be issued and available for pick-up beginning **October 07, 2021**, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Mondays through Fridays, at the Administration Office, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport. CPA offices are closed on holidays. The RFP includes layouts and requirements. All responses to this RFP shall also take into account any and/or all costs that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for the project. Prospective proposers will be required to pay a non-refundable administrative fee of $50.00 for costs associated with handling and consideration of the proposal. Payments are accepted in the form of cash, credit card, and certified cashier's checks made out to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

Questions and/or clarification concerning this project shall be in writing and sent to the attention of the Executive Director through email at cpa.receptionist@pticom.com with copy to Joy Ann Tenorio at joy.tenorio@cnmiports.com no later than **October 25, 2021.**

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: **"RFP TECHNICAL SUBMISSION: CONFIDENTIAL; CONCESSION NO. SXC-2021-01."** One (1) original and three (3) copies of the technical proposal must be submitted no later than **2:00 p.m. Chamorro Standard Time, November 18, 2021**, to the Authority Administration Section, Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport. Proposals are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee. Proposers that submit proposals deemed to be Sufficiently Acceptable pursuant to the terms of this RFP will be invited to submit Price Bids and will be notified of the time, date, and location for submittal of such Price Bids.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so, would be in CPA's best interest. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest. All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

***FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY***

**CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO**
Executive Director

10/04/21
Date

**NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE**
**Procurement and Property Management**
P.O. Box 501250 • Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.
Phone: (670) 234-5498 Ext. 6824 I www.marianas.edu

**SUPPLY and DELIVERY OF VEHICLE**
**INVITATION FOR BIDS**
**NMC IFB 22-0001**

Northern Marianas College (The College) is soliciting competitive sealed Bids for the Supply and Delivery of One (1) 4X4 Crew Cab, Long bed Pickup Truck.

Specifications and Scope of Work packets may be picked up at the N**MC Procurement Office, Bldg. P, commencing October 12, 2021 between the hours of 9:00-11:30 a.m.** for the Electronic packet, please send request to Anita Camacho (anita.camacho@marianas.edu).

**Sealed Bids Submission:**
**Procurement & Property Management Office, Bldg. P, As Terlaje Campus**
**Due Date and Time: 10:00am, November 12, 2021 (CNMI).**

**Paid for by 100% federal funds through the USDA-Rural Development Community Facilities- Disaster Grant, Case Number 62-005-91982292**

In accordance with Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, Local Preference is not available to local businesses for this procurement.

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The College reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids for any reason and waive any defect in said bids, or cancel in part or its entirety this IFB, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College.

Approved by:

/s/ Anita Camacho
Procurement & Property Manager

# Damaged US sub in Guam after collision in South China Sea

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—A U.S. Navy nuclear-powered submarine that was damaged in a collision with an unknown underwater object in the South China Sea last weekend has arrived in port at Guam, the Navy said Friday.

No further details about the circumstances of the collision or the extent of damage to the USS *Connecticut* were available, but China's Foreign Ministry expressed "serious concern" about what happened.

"As the party involved, the U.S. should clarify in detail the situation of the accident, including the location, the intention of the sailing, details of the accident, such as what exactly it collided with, whether it caused a nuclear leak, and whether it damaged the local marine environment," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian told reporters Friday.

When it disclosed the Oct. 2 accident on Thursday, U.S. Pacific Fleet said that there had been no damage to the sub's nuclear propulsion system and that it had not yet determined what underwater object had been struck. It did not say where the collision happened, but other officials said it was in the South China Sea.

China claims total sovereignty over the South China Sea, a stance that is not accepted by the United States and its allies. China protests the presence of the U.S. Navy in the area. The South China Sea is among many points of growing contention between Washington and Beijing, including the status of Taiwan, the island that China claims as its own.

The U.S. sub's underwater collision in the South China Sea was unusual, and the Navy said it is under investigation. About 11 crew members sustained injuries that the Navy said ranged from moderate to minor, including scrapes and bruises.

The *Connecticut*, based at Bremerton, Washington, is one of three Seawolf-class attack submarines in the Navy fleet. Those subs were designed during the Cold War, with the navy of the former Soviet Union in mind, to improve the U.S.'s ability to attack submarines and surface ships. Each is operated with a crew of about 140.

Zhao, the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson, said the accident exposed the "serious threat and significant risk to regional peace and stability" posed by U.S. naval operations in the South China Sea aimed at challenging China's claim to virtually the entire strategic waterway. He also accused the United States of delaying the release of information about the collision, and he reiterated China's objections to a deal announced last month to provide Australia with nuclear-powered submarines in what Beijing sees as part of a campaign to counter its rising military and economic power in Asia.

"The U.S. side should abandon its old cold war and zero-sum thinking and narrow geopolitical concepts and stop this wrong approach that undermines the peaceful and stable development of the region," Zhao said.

# US Coast Guard awards 'Certificate of Merit' to merchant vessel

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Capt. Nicholas Simmons, commander with the U.S Coast Guard Sector Guam, presented Capt. Robert E. Foley and the crew of the M/V *APL Saipan* with a Certificate of Merit for helping rescue three mariners last May.

**By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam recently presented a Certificate of Merit to a merchant vessel stationed off the coast of Saipan for helping rescue three mariners back in May.

Last Thursday, Capt. Nicholas Simmons, commander of the U.S Coast Guard Sector Guam, presented Capt. Robert E. Foley and the crew of the M/V *APL Saipan* with a Certificate of Merit for their help in rescuing three mariners last May.

The *APL Saipan* was en route from Japan to Saipan when they received a report that a fishing vessel, *K-Fisher 3*, was taking on water 90 nautical-miles north of Saipan. The *APL Saipa*n's crew immediately diverted course to the *K-Fisher 3*'s last known location and found the mostly submerged vessel with three mariners clinging to the vessel's bow. The *APL Saipan*'s crew quickly coordinated a rescue plan and recovered the three mariners before transporting them back to Saipan.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, last May 26, the Department of Public Safety Boating Safety Section, U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam, and container ship *APL Saipan* joined forces in the search and rescue of the three fishermen. The three men were rescued in the waters 5 miles south of the northern island Sarigan.

When the fishermen were first found, they were holding on to the portion of their capsized boat that was still peeking above the water.

According to a DPS news release, the department received a call at 4:30am that day regarding a distressed vessel about 5 miles south of the island of Sarigan and dispatched a patrol boat out of Smiling Cove soon after.

At about 9:29am the officers noticed a vessel's bow above the water with three fishermen holding on to the vessel, helped the three men onto their boat, and transported them to a passing container ship, *APL Saipan*, for medical attention.

DPS reported that all three fishermen said they were okay and did not have any injuries.

# SINMI to host 'Dancing in the Rain' celebration

Soroptimist International of the NMI is inviting the community to join the Soroptimist members as they celebrate women "Dancing in the Rain" and award the 2021 "Live Your Dream" winner on Oct. 16, 2021, from 5:30pm to 7:30pm at the Marianas Lighthouse Restaurant. They are also celebrating their 9th charter celebration, and the 100th anniversary of the Soroptimist organization worldwide. There will be food, refreshments, a guest speaker and a silent auction. It will be a night of celebrating the future of women in the CNMI. Tickets are $75 and can be purchased at Natural Nail Spa or from any of the Soroptimist members.

The Live Your Dream Awards provide monetary assistance to women who are attending college or vocational training, are the primary source of financial support for their families, and have a dream to continually better their lives through education. ***(PR)***


**JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**
**HR 2021-01**

**CEDA**
COMMONWEALTH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

**P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950**
**Tel: (670 234-6245/6293/7145/7146**
**Fax: (670) 235-7147**
**www.developcnmi.com**

**Position:** Economic Development Manager, exempt
**Annual Salary:** Minimum $70,000.00
**Opening Date:** September 8, 2021
**Closing Date:** October 15, 2021
**Closing Time:** 4:00 P.M.

The Application for Employment, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be obtained online at www.**developcnmi.com** or at the CEDA offices during regular business hours from 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M., Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

**Saipan** CDA Building, Unit 205, Beach Road, Oleai
**Rota** Tamara & Seven Brothers, Songsong
**Tinian** Northern Marianas College, Bldg. B, Rm. E, San Jose

All applications must be complete and submitted to the CEDA main office in Saipan or emailed to admin@developcnmi.com.

For more inquiries, please contact Ms. Christy Kintol, Office Manager at (670) 234-6245 ext. 310 or by email at c.kintol@developcnmi.com

**/s/ Manuel A. Sablan**
Executive Director



**NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION**
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp I Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairperson of the Board, is hereby giving notice that the Regular Board Meeting is scheduled on Friday, October 15, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. at the NMHC Conference Room, Saipan. The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance. In compliance with the CNMI COVID-19 guidelines, Face-masks must be worn, social distancing will be enforced, and not more than ten (10) people will be allowed in the conference room during the course of the meeting.

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
   a. Call to Order
   b. Roll Call
   c. Adoption of Agenda

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. CORPORATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

IV. OLD BUSINESS
   a. CDBG-DR Updates

V. NEW BUSINESS
   a. Amend Small Purchase Threshold and Bonding Requirements
   b. Amend Procurement Protest
   c. Conflict of Interest Form and Waiver
   d. REAC Inspection Results
   e. New Housing Programs

VI. LEGAL COUNSEL'S PENDING/ONGOING REPORT

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION
   a. Personnel Matters

VIII. OTHER MATTERS

IX. ADJOURNMENT

*(Notes: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13 (a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)*

/s/
Merced (Marcie) M. Tomokane
Chairperson of the Board

Tinian Field Office
Tel: (670)433-9213
Fax: (670)433-3690

**"NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency"**

Rota Field Office
Tel: (670)532-9410
Fax: (670)532-9441

# Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXI, Issue No. 202
Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

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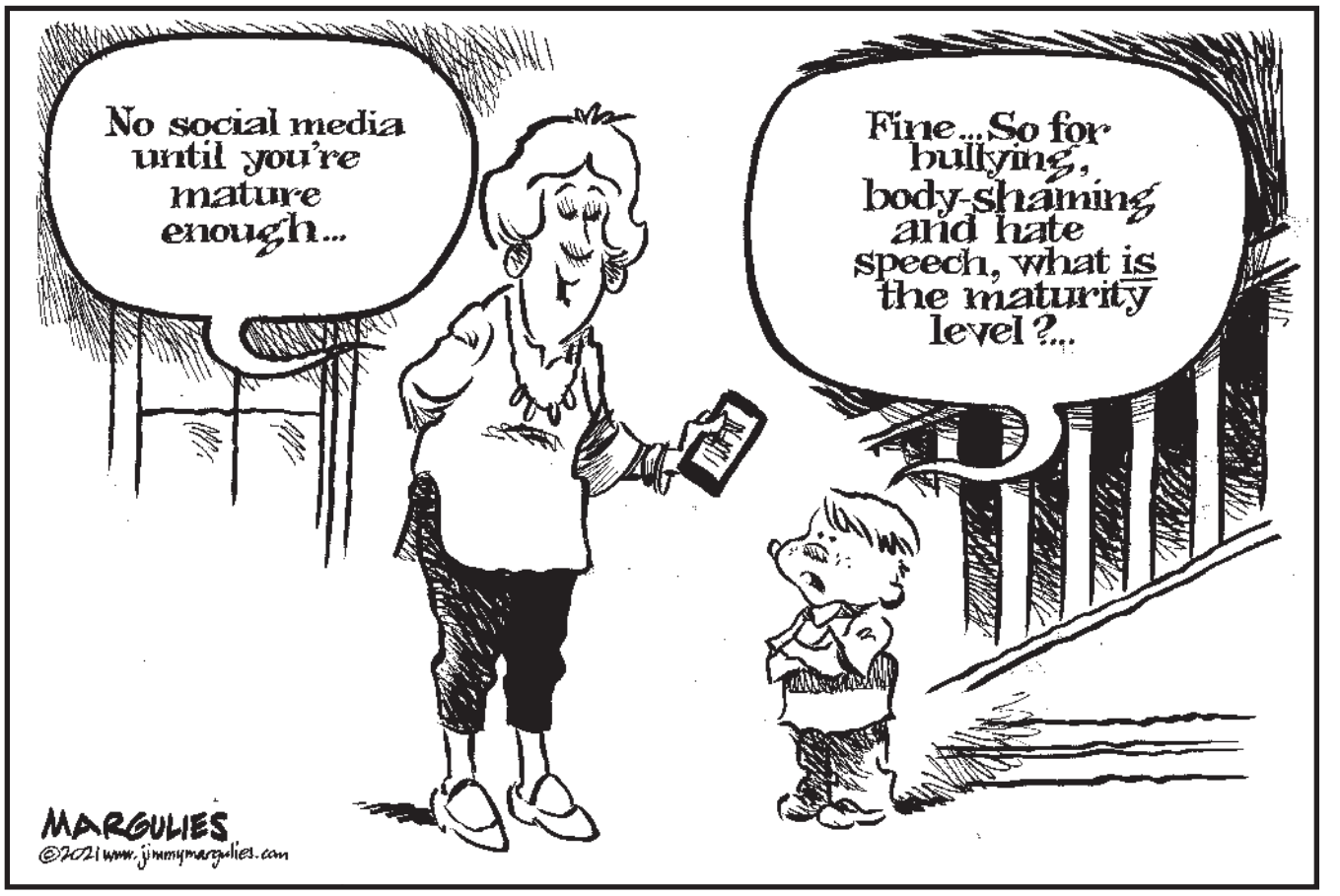
No social media until you're mature enough...
Fine...So for bullying, body-shaming and hate speech, what is the maturity level?...
MARGULIES
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## EDITORIAL

# Finally, a judge does the right thing and blocks the Texas ban on abortion

Finally, a voice of reason sounds from the federal bench. U.S. District Judge Robert Pitman on Wednesday temporarily blocked the reprehensible Texas law that has halted nearly all abortions in that state, calling it out for being, plain and simple, an unlawful and brazen end-run around the constitutionally protected right to a legal abortion.

Pitman was blunt in his assessment of Texas Senate Bill 8, a law that outlaws all abortions at the point when cardiac activity is detected in the fetus—which is around six weeks of gestation. The judge wrote that "this court will not sanction one more day of this offensive deprivation of such an important right."

The ruling came as a response to an emergency request by the U.S. Justice Department for a preliminary injunction to halt the law after filing a lawsuit against the state of Texas, asserting that the law violates the constitutional right of women to seek abortions. Most women don't even know they are pregnant at six weeks. Other states have passed similar bans on abortions in early pregnancy. But federal courts have generally blocked or overturned them as obvious violations of U.S. Supreme Court rulings that have established and upheld the right of a woman to get an abortion—without obstacles—up to the point of fetal viability outside her body, which is around 24 weeks of gestation.

But the Texas law is different, and more insidious, than those in other states because it was written by a state legislature hostile to abortion rights that is deliberately trying to evade judicial review. The law can be enforced only by private individuals suing abortion clinics and others. Texas state and local government agencies have no part in enforcing this law, which is why it avoided earlier legal challenges. Pitman blasted Republican lawmakers for crafting an "unprecedented and transparent statutory scheme."

The law has crippled abortion clinics across Texas since it went into effect last month, forcing many women to travel out of state to seek abortions and putting strain on clinics in nearby states and, occasionally, beyond. However, it's unclear whether Pitman's ruling will spur many clinics to fully resume their operations. Clinics rightly worry that when Texas officials file an appeal, the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals will overturn Pitman's ruling. That is a possibility, because it is one of the most conservative appellate courts in the nation and has already refused an earlier request from abortion providers and advocates to block the law before it took effect.

Still, it is heartening to see one judge cut through the nonsense of this law and tell the state that created it and empowered this vigilante force of private citizens to stop it. Abortion providers and advocates filed suit against Texas before the law went into effect Sept. 1— and also filed for an injunction at the U.S. Supreme Court. But they lost because the novelty of the Texas law apparently flummoxed five conservative justices, who all said it was unclear who in Texas should be enjoined from carrying

*See FINALY on next page*

# Century-old racist US Supreme Court cases still rule over millions of Americans

**By ERIC BELLONE**
Suffolk University

The 4 million inhabitants of five U.S. territories – Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Northern Marianas Islands, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands – do not have the full protection of the Constitution, because of a series of Supreme Court cases dating back to 1901 that are based on archaic, often racist language and reasoning.

No U.S. citizen living in any of those places can vote for president. They don't have a voting representative in Congress, either.

But this inferiority is inconsistent. Puerto Ricans are American citizens and can vote in federal elections if they reside in a U.S. state–but not if they live in Puerto Rico or one of the other territories.

However, American Samoans are not U.S. citizens, so they can't vote for president even if they live in the 50 states. That is being challenged in federal courts.

It's all a result of a political and legal mindset that is more than 100 years old, but is still in force.

## Superiority complex

Up until the end of the 19th century, everyone assumed that all U.S. territories would, eventually, become full-fledged states, whose residents would become U.S. citizens with rights fully protected by the Constitution. The Northwest Ordinance of 1787 outlined the process: As new lands opened to Americans, Congress would initially appoint a governor and judges for the territory and establish a rule of law. When the territorial population exceeded 5,000 adult men, voters would elect a legislature and send a nonvoting delegate to Congress. When the territory reached a population of 60,000, the territory would petition for statehood and be admitted to the union.

That process assumed the territories would be in North America, and that most of the territorial population would be people of European descent. Those assumptions changed when the United States claimed Puerto Rico, the Philippines and Guam in 1898, as spoils of war at the end of the Spanish-American War. Puerto Rico and Guam are still U.S. territories.

That expansion gave Americans a clear sense of the nation's purpose and power in the world, summarized effectively by U.S. Sen. Albert Beveridge of Indiana in a congressional speech on Jan. 9, 1900: "[God] has made us the master organizers of the world to establish system where chaos reigns. He has made us adept in government that we may administer government among the savage and servile peoples."

## A new type of territory

Starting in 1901, a set of court cases, collectively called the "Insular Cases," created new constitutional law regarding the United States' relation with its territories. They began when import companies challenged tariffs imposed on goods transported from the newly acquired territories into the U.S. The companies claimed there should not be tariffs, because the goods were moving from one part of the U.S. to another.

The Supreme Court ultimately ruled that the companies were correct that transport within the U.S. was not subject to tariffs, but created an exception, in which the new lands were neither foreign countries nor part of the U.S.

Those territories, the Supreme Court would rule in the first of the Insular Cases, Downes v. Bidwell in 1901, were "foreign in a domestic sense," "inhabited by alien races," and therefore governing them "according to Anglo-Saxon principles may for a time be impossible."

The ruling included other prejudice-revealing statements, too, such as, "It is obvious that in the annexation of outlying and distant possessions grave questions will arise from differences of race, habits, laws, and customs of the people, and from differences of soil, climate, and production, which may require action on the part of Congress that would be quite unnecessary in the annexation of contiguous territory inhabited only by people of the same race, or by scattered bodies of native Indians."

As a result, the court created a new distinction: "Incorporated" territories of the U.S. were expected to one day become states. "Unincorporated" territories, by contrast, were not – and, therefore, their inhabitants were, and still are, denied some of their constitutional rights.

A 2020 referendum vote in Puerto Rico favored statehood; Guam officials have called for statehood; and Stacey Plaskett, who represents the people of the U.S. Virgin Islands in Congress, says her constituents deserve the full rights of citizenship, including the right to vote.

## The cases and context

Both at the time and since, the Downes decision has been described as meaning "the Constitution does not follow the flag." The territories might be ruled by Congress, but not necessarily by the Constitution.

*See CENTURY-OLD on next page*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

# 'Why you should vote for me'

Hafa adai yan tirow,

I would like to take this opportunity to share with the voters of Precinct 3 why you should vote for me.

1. I am committed, focused and ready to serve you.

2. I believe in good governance, and I strongly believe that our people deserve a better quality of life.

3. We, the people, deserve nothing less than an open and honest government.

4. A government that is responsible, accountable and transparent with the people's money.

5. A government that makes common sense decisions for the betterment of all, and not just the select few.

6. A government that updates and implements legislations to reflect current economic and financial conditions.

7. And a government that supports and encourages enforcement on existing laws and regulations to protect lost revenues.

If I am elected as your representative you can definitely count on me to do what is right for the betterment of all!

You need a representative:

1. Who will put you first, your needs, interests and welfare, and not just a follower or a puppet.

2. Who can think independently, but is also capable of collaborating with others.

3. Who is a leader, and will be your voice to raise issues and concerns that affect your families and our community no matter how unpopular they may be.

4. Who is not afraid to be criticized and welcomes challenges.

5. Who has the compassion to help people from all walks of life.

6. Who is focused and determined to bring about change for a better life in the CNMI.

7. Who has experience in Management, Finance and Budget.

With this, I am humbly asking for your support and vote of confidence in the upcoming special election.

My name is Corina L. Magofna. And I am No. 1 on the ballot! Please vote for me.

**Corina L. Magofna**
*Candidate for Precinct 3*

# The three pillars of my priorities

*Hafa adai and tirow*!

Let me start by thanking each and every one of you for being on this journey with me. Your support is overwhelming and getting a chance to meet and listen to you has been a blessing and a privilege.

My desire to serve our precinct and the Marianas comes from values instilled in me by my parents, Herman "Pitu" DLG Sablan and Nadine Hadley Phillip, which are leadership, commitment, and service.

My desire to serve also comes from how much I value family. Family is everything to me, and the lessons and experiences I learned from my parents, my husband, my children, and my relatives moves me to do more for our diverse community of families that call the Marianas their home.

My decision to step forward and serve as your next representative is firmly rooted in my desire to give back, give more, and give our children a fighting chance at having a better future than the one we have. I am committed to this land and our people.

I am a proud daughter of our Marianas and Micronesia. I was born and raised in the CNMI, and I want nothing more than to bring my experiences and education to the table.

After graduating from Marianas High School, I went on to get a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in counseling from the University of Guam. I'm also a certified substance abuse treatment counselor, and my work has taken me to serve throughout the region and in the United States: Guam, American Samoa, and Virginia.

I came back home in 2016 to serve our community as a recovery counselor and later as a counselor for the Department of Public Safety, helping many of our people overcome personal challenges.

These experiences and volunteering for disaster recovery operations on Rota for Typhoon Mangkhut and on Saipan for Super Typhoon Yutu exposed to me a harsh reality: that our people suffered so much after the storm, and they need relief in more ways than one. Our people's suffering then and now, especially with this pandemic, has opened my eyes and heart to do more. I have seen the pain and suffering we face as a community, whether it's substance abuse, mental or physical abuse, or suffering at the hands of a natural disaster or even a disaster like COVID-19. I am convinced that we can address these issues if we work together!

I am running so we can do good things together starting with our precinct, expanding into our islands and beyond. Our people have suffered enough: a pandemic crippled economy; the disruption of our lives, how we live and how we work; the extreme changes affecting how our kids learn and grow; and, at the highest level, how our Commonwealth must survive is a call to action.

And I am answering that call. I want to be one of your elected leaders prepared to come to work with solutions or at least the willingness to work toward those solutions regardless of party and above the pettiness of politics.

We have to rise up and lift our community, together. When this happens, when I am elected with your help, I will:

**1. Strengthen our families**

I will help stand up for programs that provide support for our single parents, children with special needs, and most especially our *man'amko* and those battling diabetes, heart disease, and cancer. Without a healthy family, we cannot have a healthy economy.

I will work on solutions to ensure that our retirees receive their 100% pensions. Our *man'amko* are the foundation of our family, and they deserve to be protected. If elected, I will make it my personal responsibility to take care of them and our families.

**2. Support our youth**

It's not our children's fault that our global economy is struggling. As a counselor, I know what it takes to keep our precious young ones active and engaged. I will support youth sports programs, cultural and performing arts, counseling, career path development, and academic growth when I am elected with your help.

**3. Grow our economy and grow this precinct!**

Our economic growth is measured in beach barbecues, family gatherings, and birthday parties. We grow the economy not just for the revenue, but for our ability to help one another when we need it most: medical treatment, funerals, and rosaries. A vibrant economy begins with business growth, which leads to employment and higher incomes for our people. I am running to help make that a reality.

I will work with this administration and the Legislature to help our people start up their own business, produce their goods, or find gainful work so that they may support their family and help grow the economy. I will work with this administration and my colleagues in the Legislature so that we have the necessary community services to improve our way of life whether it's more training on starting your own business, getting start-up tools for your business, or getting certified so you or your child may earn more through a reliable and successful career.

The Bible says, "Give a man a fish, and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish, and you feed him for a lifetime." This is consistent with my Republican belief in being responsible for creating the life you want in helping each other to rise up together.

I ask for your vote so that I can be responsible to help give you the life you deserve, I ask for your vote so that I can be responsible so that the government gives you the support you need to thrive and move forward. I am asking for your vote as a mother, clinician, volunteer, and public servant. I look forward to working for you and our serving our precinct faithfully.

Thank you, *si yu'us ma'ase, olomwaay, and maraming salamat po*!

May God continue to bless you all and our great Commonwealth!

**Grace "Pitu" Sablan Vaiagae**
*Candidate for Precinct 3*

## CENTURY-OLD

*From Page 8*

What that meant for the people of those territories was unclear. And despite five other cases in 1901, and others in the subsequent 20 years, the Supreme Court has never truly clarified which constitutional protections were available to whom and which weren't. It left open questions about whether key elements of the Constitution, like trial by jury, or even the Bill of Rights, were available in the unincorporated territories.

Hawaii was also acquired in 1898, but was treated differently and ultimately became a state. The differences were probably for reasons to do with partisan politics and a Republican-Democratic balance in Congress.

### Supreme Court interpretation over the years

Since the mid-20th century, the court has made small incremental changes to the Insular Cases' effects, tweaking technical definitions concerning taxes, trade and governmental benefits such as Social Security, Medicaid and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. But the court has not addressed the overall inferior constitutional status of the territories and the people who live there.

It wasn't until 1957, for instance, in Reid v. Covert, that the Supreme Court ruled that defendants in the territories had a right to trial by jury – a right citizens have because of Article III of the Constitution. Several justices made clear that "neither the cases nor their reasoning should be given any further expansion." That statement was widely viewed as a signal that the influence of the Insular Cases was declining.

In Torres v. Puerto Rico (1979), the court further weakened the Insular Cases. Although narrowly applied to the territory at hand, the Supreme Court made clear that the Bill of Rights actually did apply in a U.S. territory.

In its 2008 ruling in Boumediene v. Bush, the court held that detainees at the U.S. naval base in Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, had the constitutional right of habeas corpus to challenge the validity of their detention. Justice Anthony Kennedy's opinion said, "It may well be that over time the ties between the United States and any of its territories strengthen in ways that are of constitutional significance," and said the federal government did not "have the power to switch the Constitution on or off at will."

But in its 2020 ruling in Financial Oversight and Management Board for Puerto Rico v. Aurelius Investment, the court pulled back from its trend of extending constitutional protections to the unincorporated territories. It ruled that President Barack Obama's appointments to the board, a government body focused on helping Puerto Rico return to financial stability, were local officials, not "officers of the United States," and therefore did not require Senate confirmation.

### Into the future

Many legal scholars view the court's mention of U.S. territorial connections strengthening "over time" as a possible key to overturning the Insular Cases. The original distinctions assumed that the U.S. would "govern temporarily territories with wholly dissimilar traditions and institutions." Most acknowledge those perceived distinctions clearly no longer exist.

These territories have established institutions and principles grounded in American traditions. The internal governments of these territories have established laws, governmental institutions and legal traditions that are indistinguishable from any state in the union. They hold elections, have residents serving in the U.S. military, and play a role in building the nation.

But without equal voting rights and congressional representation, the Americans living in these territories cannot remedy their status at the ballot box.

*The Conversation is an independent and nonprofit source of news, analysis and commentary from academic experts. This article is republished from The Conversation under a Creative Commons license. Read the original article here: https://theconversation.com/century-old-racist-us-supreme-court-cases-still-rule-over-millions-of-americans-167091.*

## FINALLY

*From Page 8*

out the law. Pitman saw it more clearly.

It's also encouraging that the U.S. House of Representatives voted last month to approve the Women's Health Protection Act, which guarantees the right to an abortion and outlaws unnecessary restrictions, which have sprouted across the country for years. And if U.S. senators respect women and the Constitution, they will vote to approve the act as well. (Something tells us not to hold our breath.)

For the time being, the federal courts are where toxic laws like the Texas abortion ban are being dealt with. The courts should follow Judge Pitman's path and shut down the Texas law for good.

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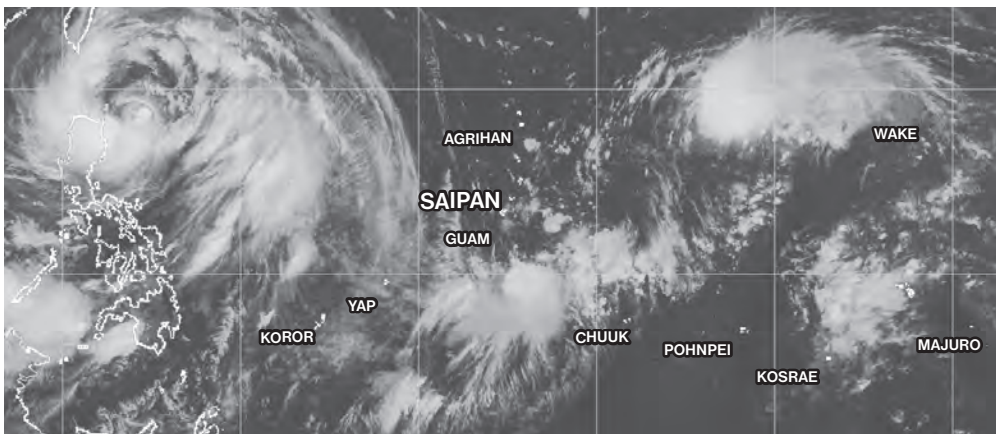
# The Weather

## 5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

| TODAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph. Highs near 87. Chance of showers 50 percent. | Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 70s. Highs in the upper 80s. Chance of showers 40 percent. | Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 70s. Highs in the upper 80s. Chance of showers 40 percent. | Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 70s. Highs in the upper 80s. Chance of showers 40 percent. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 70s. Chance of showers 20 percent. |
| 87º / 77º | 80º / 70º | 80º / 70º | 80º / 70º | 80º / 70º |

## YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE




**PICTURE TIME: 8:21 AM, MONDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2021**

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Guam Doppler weather radar shows scattered showers moving through the Marianas Waters this morning. The radar also shows a weak circulation southeast of Guam, moving westward, which could serve as a continuing focus for shower activity the next day or two. The Ipan buoy reveals combined seas around 3 feet, however this doesn`t include west swell from the monsoon and Tropical Storm Kompasu east of the Philippines. True combined seas are estimated to be between 5 and 8 feet.

*Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/*

| MICRONESIA | | ▲ ▼ °F |
|---|---|---|
| Guam and Rota | Partly Cloudy | 88 / 77 °F |
| Palau | Mostly Cloudy | 86 / 78 °F |
| Yap | Cloudy | 87 / 79 °F |
| Chuuk | Mostly Cloudy | 91 / 80 °F |
| Pohnpei | Partly Cloudy | 90 / 76 °F |
| Kosrae | Light Rain Shower | 85 / 79 °F |
| Majuro | Mostly Cloudy | 86 / 79 °F |

| DAY | SUNRISE | SUNSET |
|---|---|---|
| Today | 6:08 AM | 5:58 PM |
| Wednesday | 6:08 AM | 5:58PM |
| Thursday | 6:08 AM | 5:57 PM |
| Friday | 6:08 AM | 5:56 PM |
| Saturday | 6:08 AM | 5:56 PM |

| DAY | MOONRISE | MOONSET | MOONRISE |
|---|---|---|---|
| Today | 11:47 | 11:12 PM | - |
| Wednesday | 12:47 | - | - |
| Thursday | - | 12:14 AM | 1:43 PM |
| Friday | - | 1:14 AM | 2:32 PM |
| Saturday | - | 2:12 AM | 3:17 PM |

| AROUND THE GLOBE | | ▲ ▼ °F |
|---|---|---|
| Auckland | Mostly Cloudy | 62 / 54 °F |
| Beijing | Fair | 67 /43 °F |
| Hong Kong | Fair | 88 / 74 °F |
| Honolulu | Partly Cloudy/Wind | 79 / 75 °F |
| London | Clear | 60 / 46 °F |
| Los Angeles | Clear | 64 / 57 °F |
| Manila | Mostly Cloudy | 90 / 80 °F |
| Melbourne | Mostly Cloudy | 58 / 41 °F |
| Miami | Clear | 80 / 74 °F |
| New York | Cloudy | 63 / 62 °F |
| Osaka | Mostly Cloudy | 84 / 72 °F |
| Paris | Mist | 62 / 44 °F |
| Busan | Cloudy | 71 / 67 °F |
| Rome | Fair | 66 / 48 °F |
| Salem | Clear | 67 / 61 °F |
| San Francisco | Clear | 58 / 53 °F |
| Seoul | Mostly Cloudy | 67 / 60 °F |
| Tokyo | Partly Cloudy | 62 / 68 °F |
| Washington, DC | Cloudy | 67 / 62 °F |

| TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY | | FEET |
|---|---|---|
| 5:59 AM | Low Tide | -0.28 |
| 1:37 AM | High Tide | 1.77 |
| 6:53 PM | Low Tide | 1.32 |
| 11:10 PM | High Tide | 1.68 |

# STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

■ Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.

■ Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.

■ Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.

■ Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.

■ Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.

■ Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html

■ Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

**Continue good hand hygiene**

■ Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.

■ Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

**Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic**

■ Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:

• Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.

• Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

• Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

• Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

**Rumor control**

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

*Source: Office of the Governor*

**NEWS DESK** For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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**SUBSCRIPTION** Published Monday to Friday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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# FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 5, 2021

## DEPARTURES

**SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA117 | 6:45am | 7:25am | 1, 3, 6 |
| UA117 | 9:45am | 10:25am | 2, 4, 5, 7 |

**GUAM-MANILA (MNL)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA183 | 7:05pm | 8:50pm | 2, 5 |
| UA183 | 7:25pm | 9:10pm | 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 |

**SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA117/183 | 6:45am | 9:10pm | 1, 3, 6 via Guam |
| UA117/183 | 9:45am | 8:50pm | 2, 5 via Guam |
| UA117/183 | 9:45am | 9:10pm | 4, 7 via Guam |

**SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7C3406 | 3:10PM | 6:55PM | 6 |
| TW9308 | 3:20PM | 8:00PM | 4 |
| OZ6243 | 4:00PM | 7:40PM | 6 |

## ARRIVALS

**GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA174 | 5:00am | 5:41am | 1, 3, 6 |
| UA174 | 8:00am | 8:41am | 2, 4, 5, 7 |

**MANILA (MNL)-GUAM**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA184 | 9:50pm | 3:55am+1 | 2, 5 |
| UA184 | 10:25pm | 4:30am+1 | 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 |

**MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA184/174 | 9:50pm | 5:41am+1 | 2, 5 via Guam |
| UA184/174 | 10:25pm | 5:41am+1 | 7 via Guam |
| UA184/174 | 10:25pm | 8:41am+1 | 1, 3, 4, 6 via Guam |

**INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7C3405 | 8:30AM | 2:10PM | 6 |
| OZ6233 | 9:00AM | 2:30PM | 6 |
| TW9307 | 10:00AM | 2:20PM | 4 |

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

# STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

**SAIPAN TO ROTA**

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1301 | 8:30AM | 9:00AM | Daily |
| 1302 | 11:00AM | 11:30AM | Daily |
| 1303 | 1:30PM | 2:00PM | Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri |
| 1304 | 3:30PM | 4:00PM | Daily |

**ROTA TO SAIPAN**

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3101 | 9:30AM | 10:00AM | Daily |
| 3102 | 12:00AM | 12:30AM | Daily |
| 3103 | 1:30PM | 3:00PM | Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri |
| 3104 | 4:30PM | 5:00PM | Daily |

**ROTA TO GUAM**

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3401 | 12:15 | 12:45 | Temporarily Unavailable |

**GUAM TO ROTA**

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 4301 | 13:00 | 13:30 | Temporarily Unavailable |

**SAIPAN TO TINIAN**

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1201 | 7:00 | 7:15 | Temporarily Unavailable |
| 1202 | 8:00 | 8:15 | Daily |
| 1203 | 9:00 | 9:15 | Daily |
| 1204 | 10:00 | 10:15 | Daily |
| 1205 | 11:00 | 11:15 | Daily |
| 1206 | 12:00 | 12:15 | Temporarily Unavailable |
| 1207 | 13:00 | 13:15 | Temporarily Unavailable |
| 1208 | 14:00 | 14:15 | Daily |
| 1209 | 15:00 | 15:15 | Daily |
| 1210 | 16:00 | 16:15 | Daily |
| 1211 | 17:00 | 17:15 | Daily |
| 1212 | 17:00 | 17:15 | Temporarily Unavailable |

**TINIAN TO SAIPAN**

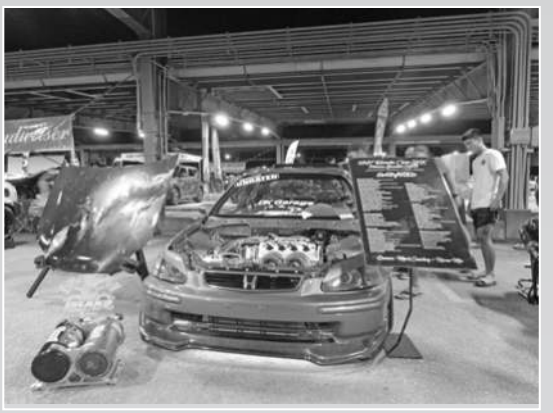
| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2101 | 7:30 | 7:45 | Temporarily Unavailable |
| 2102 | 8:30 | 8:45 | Daily |
| 2103 | 9:30 | 9:45 | Daily |
| 2104 | 10:30 | 10:45 | Daily |
| 2105 | 11:30 | 11:45 | Daily |
| 2106 | 12:30 | 12:45 | Temporarily Unavailable |
| 2107 | 13:30 | 13:45 | Temporarily Unavailable |
| 2108 | 14:30 | 14:45 | Daily |
| 2109 | 15:30 | 15:45 | Daily |
| 2110 | 16:30 | 16:45 | Daily |
| 2111 | 17:30 | 17:45 | Daily |
| 2112 | 18:30 | 18:45 | Temporarily Unavailable |

# 2021 Island Summer Auto Fest

Car enthusiasts, car dealerships, and the community came together Saturday night at the Marianas Business Plaza for this year's Island Summer Auto Fest.

The event, which was a showcase of many modified vehicles, also featured competitions in two-door vehicles, four-door vehicles, trucks, "4x4", "Cafe Bikes", "Cruiser Bikes", "VIP Style", "Classics", "Scooter/ Moped", and a "Sound Off Competition."

Also present at the carfest last Saturday was Coldwell Energy Saipan, which had a Tesla Model X and a 1965 Mustang Shelby GT350 on display.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jeffrey Riman, right, wins first place in the 4 Door category.

## WINNERS' LIST

**Best of Show:** Brandon Torres

**4x4 - 1st place:** Joey Pangelinan
**4x4 - 2nd place:** Ronel Macalinao

**Trucks - 1st place:** Roman Reyes
**Trucks - 2nd place:** B.J. Barce
**Trucks - 3rd place:** Joey Pangelinan

**Café Bikes - 1st place:** Ronel Macalinao
**Café Bikes - 2nd place:** Michael Mancao
**Café Bikes - 3rd place:** Leo Duenas

**Cruiser Bikes - 1st place:** Jordan Mendiola

**Scooter/Moped - 1st place:** Joseph Tyler Ada
**Scooter/Moped- 2nd place:** Kevin Ada
**Scooter/Moped - 3rd place:** Jun Sambile

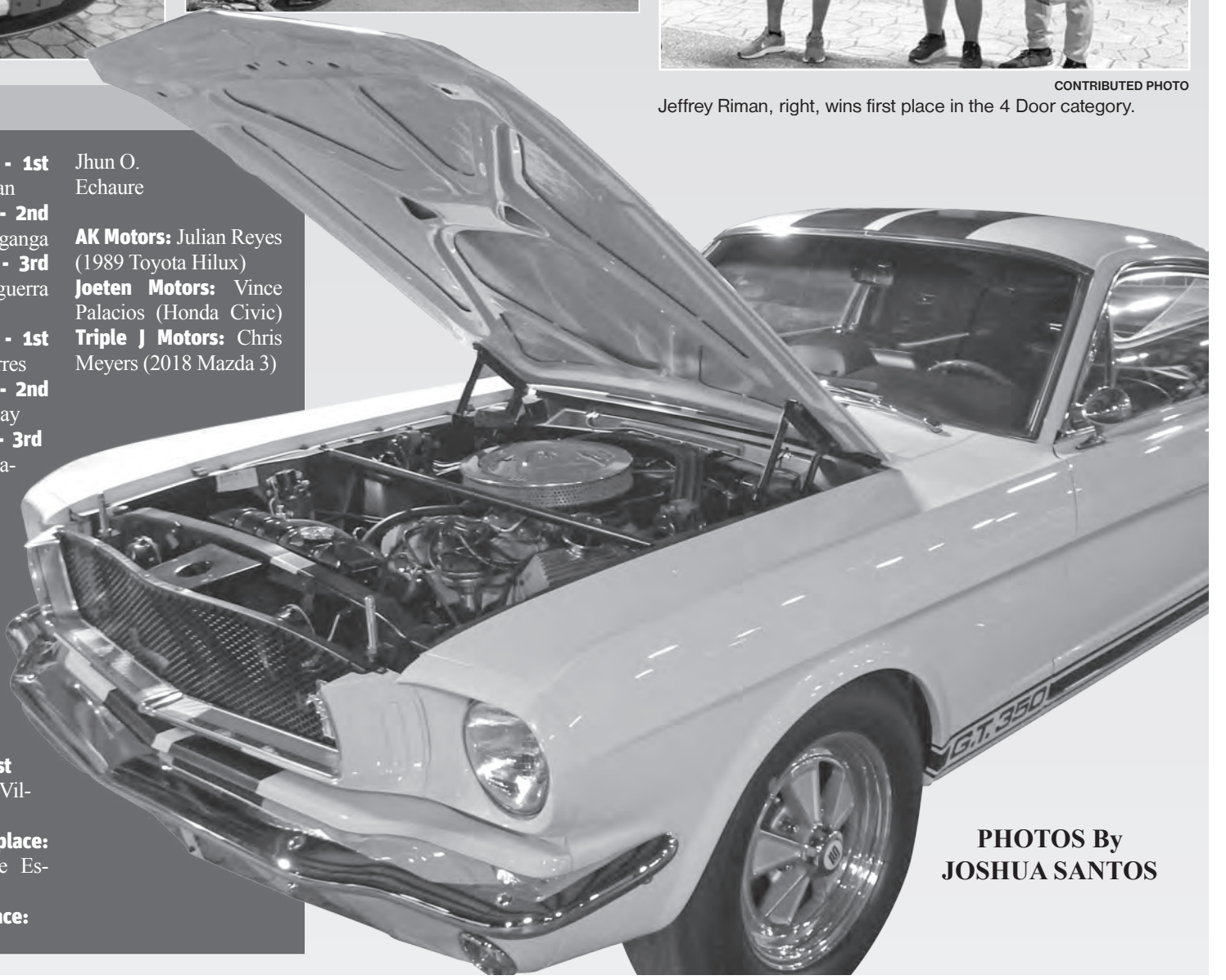
**4 Door category - 1st place:** Jeffrey Riman
**4 Door category - 2nd place:** Casey Hulinganga
**4 Door category - 3rd place:** Jerome Ortiguerra

**2 Door Category - 1st place:** Brandon Torres
**2 Door Category - 2nd place:** Mark Caacbay
**2 Door Category - 3rd place:** Vince T. Palacios

**VIP Style - 1st place:** Manny Ada
**VIP Style - 2nd place:** Rodel S. Capati
**VIP Style - 3rd place:** Sheela & Chris

**Sound Off - 1st place:** Hayden G. Villegas
**Sound Off- 2nd place:** Jeremiah & Codie Escota
**Sound Off - 3rd place:** Jhun O. Echaure

**AK Motors:** Julian Reyes (1989 Toyota Hilux)
**Joeten Motors:** Vince Palacios (Honda Civic)
**Triple J Motors:** Chris Meyers (2018 Mazda 3)




**PHOTOS By JOSHUA SANTOS**

# Business

In this June 17, 2021, file photo, a sign requiring masks is displayed at a restaurant in Rolling Meadows, Ill. AP

## Small businesses navigate shifting COVID-19 reality

**NEW YORK** (AP)—For a brief moment this summer, it seemed like small businesses might be getting a break from the relentless onslaught of the pandemic. More Americans, many of them vaccinated, flocked to restaurants and stores without needing to mask up or socially distance.

But then came a surge in cases due to the delta variant, a push for vaccine mandates and a reluctant return to more COVID-19 precautions. Now, small business owners are left trying to strike a balance between staying safe and getting back to being fully open.

Navigating ever-changing coronavirus reality comes with a number of risks, from financial hardship to offending customers to straining workers. Those challenges could intensify as winter approaches and outdoor alternatives become limited. Still, small business owners say the whiplash is worth it to keep customers and employees as safe as possible.

"Just weeks ago, small business owners hoped that a return to normalcy would help jump start our recovery," said Jessica Johnson-Cope, Chair of Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses Voices National Leadership Council and owner of a small business herself, Johnson Security Bureau in New York.

New York City ordered a vaccine mandate for customers in August. For Dan Rowe, CEO of Fransmart, which runs the Brooklyn Dumpling Shop, the mandate has been a financial burden, and a headache. Brooklyn Dumpling Shop first opened in May and has six staffers. It's pandemic-friendly format is contactless and automated.

"It was engineered to be a restaurant with less employees," Rowe said. Glass separates the kitchen and staff from customers, who order food from an app. When the kitchen is finished making the food, it's placed an automat-style window, so workers don't come into contact with customers.

"We've engineered this great low labor restaurant, and the government is making us go backward," he said.

Rowe had to hire another staffer to check vaccine cards at the door, increasing his overhead. His complaint is that retail stores and groceries with prepared foods like Whole Foods don't face the same restrictions.

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

### Southwest Airlines cancels more than 1,000 Sunday flights

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Southwest Airlines canceled hundreds of flights over the weekend, blaming the woes on air traffic control issues and weather. The airline canceled more than 1,000 flights in total, or 29% of its schedule, as of 7 p.m. ET Sunday, according to flight tracker FlightAware. That was the highest rate by far of the major U.S. airlines. Next in line was Allegiant, which canceled 6% of its flights. American Airlines canceled 5% of its flights, while Spirit canceled 4% on Sunday, according to the flight tracker. On Saturday, Southwest Airlines canceled more than 800 flights. Southwest Airlines said in an emailed statement that it had experienced weather challenges in its Florida airports at the beginning of the weekend, which were compounded by unexpected air traffic control issues in the same region. Those issues triggered delays and prompted significant cancellations for the airlines beginning Friday evening.

### Sydney opens to vaccinated after 100-plus days of lockdown

**CANBERRA, Australia** (AP)—Sydney hairdressers, gyms, cafés and bars reopened to fully vaccinated customers on Monday for the first time in more than 100 days after Australia's largest city achieved a vaccination benchmark. Sydney planned to reopen on the Monday after 70% of the New South Wales state population aged 16 and older were fully vaccinated. By Monday, 73.5% of the target population was fully vaccinated and more than 90% have received at least one dose. Some businesses opened at midnight due to demand from people impatient to enjoy their freedom.

### Facebook unveils new controls for kids using its platforms

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Facebook, in the aftermath of damning testimony that its platforms harm children, will be introducing several features including prompting teens to take a break using its photo sharing app Instagram, and "nudging" teens if they are repeatedly looking at the same content that's not conducive to their well-being. The Menlo Park, California-based Facebook is also planning to introduce new controls for adults of teens on an optional basis so that parents or guardians can supervise what their teens are doing online. These initiatives come after Facebook announced late last month that it was pausing work on its Instagram for Kids project. But critics say the plan lacks details and they are skeptical that the new features would be effective.

# Nation

## ACROSS THE NATION

### Southern California beach set to reopen after oil spill

**HUNTINGTON BEACH, Calif.** (AP)—A Southern California beach that had been closed since an undersea pipeline leaked crude into ocean waters last week is set to reopen Monday, officials announced Sunday night. City and state beaches in Huntington Beach will reopen after water quality tests revealed no detectable levels of oil associated toxins in the ocean water, Huntington city and California State Parks said in a news release. They are still urging visitors to avoid areas that smell of oil and not to touch any oiled materials that wash ashore. That news will likely please beach-goers like Richard Beach, who returned to the waves in Huntington Beach on Sunday with his bodyboard—until lifeguards on jet skis chased him out. He trekked back across the beach, passing workers in hazmat suits tasked with clearing the sand of sticky, black blobs that washed ashore after the spill. He had previously stayed clear of the ocean after the oil leak sent a foul smell across the shore.

### Police: Louisiana trooper, woman killed in shooting rampage

**BATON ROUGE, La.** (AP)—A Louisiana state trooper was killed by a man who authorities believe also fatally shot another person and wounded three others across multiple parishes, the state police said. Master Trooper Adam Gaubert, a 19-year veteran of the force, was ambushed in his patrol vehicle Saturday near Prairieville, according to a Louisiana State Police news release. The suspect, Matthew Mire, 31, was taken into custody that night after a daylong manhunt. "(Gaubert) served selflessly and courageously to keep our people and our communities safe, and he represents the best of all us," Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards said in a statement Sunday. The trooper was found dead near the scene of another killing. Ascension Parish Sheriff Bobby Webre said Mire fatally shot Pamela Adair, 37, at a home around 3 a.m. on Saturday before fleeing. Authorities said they have reason to believe she was Mire's half-sister, but his motive for shooting her wasn't immediately clear. He also shot a man who was transported to a hospital, the sheriff said.

### 1 killed, 14 wounded in shootout at Minnesota bar

**ST. PAUL, Minn.** (AP)—A shootout at a busy bar in St. Paul, Minnesota, early Sunday left a woman dead and 14 other people wounded, authorities said. The shooting happened shortly after midnight at the Seventh Street Truck Park bar. Police said preliminary information indicated several people fired gunshots. Police arrested three men who were being treated at a hospital for injuries from the shootout. All three will be booked into the Ramsey County jail once they are discharged, the St. Paul Police Department said in a statement on Twitter. They have not yet been charged. Authorities were still investigating what led to the shootout. The woman in her 20s who was killed is the 32nd homicide victim in the city so far this year, the Star Tribune reported. All of the other people who were shot are expected to survive, police said in a statement. The Seventh Street Truck bar is in an entertainment district just south of the Xcel Energy Center, where the NHL's Minnesota Wild play. Linders said he doesn't recall any recent previous calls for police service to Seventh Street Truck Park bar.

### Man charged with murder in killing of officer on 1st shift

**ALAMO, Ga.** (AP)—A man accused of gunning down a Georgia police officer during his first shift with the department ambushed him in retaliation for the officer's arrest of an associate hours earlier, authorities said. The Georgia Bureau of Investigation said 43-year-old Damien Anthony Ferguson has been charged with murder in the shooting death of Officer Dylan Harrison outside the Alamo Police Department early Saturday. On Friday afternoon, Harrison approached a driver in the parking lot of the Circle K convenience store across from the police department after he observed a traffic violation, authorities said. The driver refused to identify himself and the interaction escalated when the man pushed Harrison. Harrison used his Taser, arrested the man and took him to jail, authorities said. "It is believed that the ambush-style attack on Officer Harrison was retaliation for the incident and arrest of the man," the bureau said in a statement on Sunday evening. They did not identify the man.

### Navy nuclear engineer charged with trying to pass secrets

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—A Navy nuclear engineer with access to military secrets has been charged with trying to pass information about the design of American nuclear-powered submarines to someone he thought was a representative of a foreign government but who turned out to be an undercover FBI agent, the Justice Department said Sunday. In a criminal complaint detailing espionage-related charges against Jonathan Toebbe, the government said he sold information for nearly the past year to a contact he believed represented a foreign power. That country was not named in the court documents. Toebbe, 42, was arrested in West Virginia on Saturday along with his wife, Diana, 45, after he had placed a removable memory card at a prearranged "dead drop" in the state, according to the Justice Department. It wasn't immediately clear whether the Toebbes, who are from Annapolis, Maryland, have lawyers. The Navy declined to comment Sunday. The FBI says the scheme began in April 2020 when Jonathan Toebbe sent a package of Navy documents to a foreign government and wrote that he was interested in selling to that country operations manuals, performance reports and other sensitive information.

### No. 2 House Republican refuses to say election wasn't stolen

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—The House's second-ranking Republican, Rep. Steve Scalise, repeatedly refused to say on Sunday that the 2020 election wasn't stolen, standing by Donald Trump's lie that Democrat Joe Biden won the White House because of mass voter fraud. More than 11 months after Americans picked their president and almost nine months since Biden was inaugurated, Scalise was unwilling during a national television interview to acknowledge the legitimacy of the vote, instead sticking to his belief that the election results should not have been certified by Congress. "I've been very clear from the beginning," he said. "If you look at a number of states, they didn't follow their state-passed laws that govern the election for president. That is what the United States Constitution says. They don't say the states determine what the rules are. They say the state legislatures determine the rules," the Louisiana congressman said on "Fox News Sunday." Pressed by moderator Chris Wallace on whether the election went beyond a few irregularities to be considered "stolen," Scalise responded: "It's not just irregularities. It's states that did not follow the laws set which the Constitution says they're supposed to follow."

# Asia

## Taiwan rejects China 'path' amid show of military force

**TAIPEI, Taiwan** (AP)—Taiwan's president on Sunday vowed to defend the island from China's rising pressure for reunification, after a week of unprecedented tensions with Beijing.

Speaking at the island's National Day celebrations, a rare show of Taiwanese defense capabilities in the annual parade underlined Tsai Ing-wen's promise to resist Chinese military threats.

"We will do our utmost to prevent the status quo from being unilaterally altered," President Tsai said.

"We will continue to bolster our national defense and demonstrate our determination to defend ourselves in order to ensure that nobody can force Taiwan to take the path China has laid out for us," the Taiwanese leader added.

China claims Taiwan as part of its national territory although the island has been self-ruled since it split from the communist-ruled mainland in 1949 after a long civil war.

Tsai emphasized the island's vibrant democracy in contrast with Beijing's deeply authoritarian, single-party Communist state.

"The path that China has laid out offers neither a free and democratic way of life for Taiwan, nor sovereignty for our 23 million people," Tsai said.

A choir of singers from Taiwan's various indigenous tribes opened the ceremony in front of the Presidential Office Building in the center of the capital, Taipei.

Surveys show Taiwanese overwhelmingly favor their current de-facto independent state and strongly rejects unification with China, which has vowed to bring the island under its control, by military force if necessary.

Tsai rarely singles out China in her public speeches, but in this speech acknowledged the increasing tensions that Taiwan faces as Chinese military harassment intensified in the past year. Since September of last year, China has flown fighter jets more than 800 times towards Taiwan.

Since last Friday, China has sent a record-breaking number of fighter jets towards international airspace close to Taiwan.

The island has strengthened its unofficial ties with countries like Japan, Australia and the U.S. in the face of these perceived threats.

"But the more we achieve, the greater the pressure we face from China," Tsai said in her speech.

## N. Korean leader calls for improved living conditions

**SEOUL, South Korea** (AP)—North Korea said Monday leader Kim Jong Un urged officials to overcome a "grim situation" facing the country and make stronger efforts to improve the food and living conditions of his people.

Kim

But state media didn't mention any specific comments toward Washington and Seoul while reporting on Kim's speech marking the 76th anniversary of the ruling Workers' Party's founding.

Nuclear negotiations between Washington and Pyongyang have stalled for more than two years over disagreements in exchanging the release of crippling U.S.-led sanctions against North Korea and the North's denuclearization steps.

The country has ramped up its missile testing activity in recent weeks while making conditional peace offers to Seoul, reviving a pattern of pressuring South Korea to get what it wants from the United States.

Pyongyang's official Korean Central News Agency said Kim during his speech on Sunday said his party is determined to achieve the economic goals set during the party's congress in January, when he acknowledged his previous economic plans weren't succeeding and issued new development plans for the next five years.

The agency said Kim confirmed the determination of the party to efficiently carry out the five-year plan to boost "the national economy and solving the people's food, clothing and housing problems."

The KCNA said Kim analyzed the "unprecedented difficulties" facing the North and called for the party's single-minded unity in developing the state economy in face of the "grim situation."

Analysts say Kim is facing perhaps the toughest moment of his near decade in power. He failed to win badly needed sanctions relief in his summitry with then-President Donald Trump in 2018 and 2019, then the coronavirus pandemic caused North Korea to close its borders and unleashed further economic shock after decades of mismanagement and sanctions over Kim's nuclear weapons program.

## India police detain hundreds amid Kashmir violence

**SRINAGAR, India** (AP)—Government forces have detained at least 500 people in a sweeping crackdown in Indian-controlled Kashmir, local officials said Sunday, following a string of suspected militant attacks and targeted killings in the disputed region.

Assailants fatally shot three Hindus and a Sikh person in the region's main city of Srinagar this week in a sudden rise in violence against civilians that both pro- and anti-India Kashmiri politicians widely condemned.

Local police blamed the spate of killings on militants fighting against Indian rule in the region for decades. Officials said they had detained in the last three days over 500 people across the Kashmir Valley for questioning, with the majority of detainees from the main city of Srinagar.

Police say militants belonging to The Resistance Front, or TRF, rebel group have shot and killed seven people since last week, pushing up the death toll from such attacks this year to 28 people. While 21 of those slain were Muslims, seven of them belonged to Hindu and Sikh minority communities.

Speaking with reporters recently, the region's top police officer Dilbag Singh described the killings as a "conspiracy to create terror and communal rift."

On Thursday, TRF in a statement on social media claimed the group was targeting those working for Indian authorities, and was not picking targets based on faith. The rebel group's statement could not be independently verified.

# World

**GREECE FLOODS** AP

A destroyed road leading to the beach of Agia Anna village, following a flood on the northern part of Evia island, Greece, Sunday, Oct. 10, 2021. The wildfires that destroyed a third of the island's forests in early August have loosened the topsoil and several communities are at risk from flooding.

## La Palma's volcanic eruption is going strong 3 weeks later

**LOS LLANOS DE ARIDANE, Canary Islands** (AP)—Three weeks since its eruption upended the lives of thousands, the volcano on Spain's La Palma island is still spewing out endless streams of lava with no signs of ceasing.

Authorities on Sunday monitored a new stream of molten rock that has added to the destruction of over 1,100 buildings. Anything in the path of the lava—homes, farms, swimming pools and industrial buildings in the largely agricultural area—has been consumed.

The collapse Saturday of part of the volcanic cone sent a flood of bright red lava pouring down from the Cumbre Vieja ridge that initially cracked open on Sept. 19. The fast-flowing stream carried away huge chunks of lava that had already hardened. An industrial park was soon engulfed.

"We cannot say that we expect the eruption that began 21 days ago to end anytime soon," said Julio Pérez, the regional minister for security on the Canary Islands.

La Palma is part of Spain's Canary Islands, an Atlantic Ocean archipelago off northwest Africa whose economy depends on the cultivation of the Canary plantain and tourism.

The new rivers of lava have not forced the evacuation of any more residents since they are all so staying within the exclusion zone that authorities have created. Some 6,000 residents were promptly evacuated after the initial eruption.

Government experts estimated that the largest of the lava flows measures 1.5 km (.9 miles) at its widest point, while the delta of new land being formed where lava is flowing into the Atlantic has reached a surface of 34 hectares (84 acres).

## WORLD BRIEFS

### Thousands march in Brussels to demand tougher climate action

**BRUSSELS** (AP)—Dressed as endangered fish or tigers or wearing toy polar bears on their heads, demonstrators marched through Brussels on Sunday to push world leaders to take bolder action to fight climate change at the U.N. climate summit in Glasgow starting this month. Thousands of people and 80 organizations took part in the protest, aiming for the biggest such event in the European Union's capital since the start of the coronavirus pandemic, which stopped the climate movement's weekly marches in its tracks. Cyclists, families with children and white-haired demonstrators filled city streets, chanting slogans demanding climate justice and waving banners in English, French and Dutch.

### Tunisia protest shows rift over president's seizure of power

**TUNIS, Tunisia** (AP)—Several thousand demonstrators gathered in central Tunis on Sunday to protest President Kaïs Saied's recent consolidation of power, which his critics have called a "coup." The protest reflected an increasingly visible rift in Tunisian society over the president's actions. Police presence was visibly bolstered for the demonstration, and scuffles were reported on the sidelines as protesters tried to overcome barriers erected on Bourguiba Avenue, the city's main thoroughfare. A journalist for state-run television was hospitalized after being hit with rocks and water bottles thrown by angry protesters. Saied abruptly dismissed the prime minister, assumed all executive powers and froze the parliament following nationwide antigovernment protests July 25.

### Doctor: Saakashvili's health deteriorating on hunger strike

**MOSCOW** (AP)—A doctor for former Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili says his condition is deteriorating 10 days into a hunger strike that he started after being arrested when he returned to the country. Saakashvili, 53, left Georgia in 2014 and became a Ukrainian citizen. He faces several charges in Georgia and earlier was sentenced in absentia to up to six years in prison. He returned to Georgia with the aim of trying to galvanize opposition to the ruling party ahead of national municipal elections and was arrested on Oct. 1. His doctor, Dr. Nikoloz Kipshidze, told Mtavari Arkhi TV on Sunday that "his condition has worsened, he has difficulty walking, it is difficult for him to speak." Kipshidze said he would seek Saakashvili's transfer to a hospital on Monday.

# Overdrive

## How do you get 51 mpg in a pickup truck?

# Buy the 2022 Ford Maverick

By LARRY PRINTZ
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

For those above a certain age, the name Ford Maverick will bring up memories of the affordable 1970 compact that replaced the Falcon in Ford's lineup. It's return for 2022 as a compact pickup truck may be surprising, but its mission is very much the same: provide affordable transportation in a compact package. And given that nearly 77 percent of U.S. new car sales are workhorse vehicles like SUVs, vans and pickups, is it any wonder that the all-new 2022 Ford Maverick pickup is least expensive new Ford you can buy? In fact, when it hits the market, the Maverick will be the least expensive hybrid you can buy in America, although the EPA has not yet rated its fuel economy.

From a value standpoint, this Maverick is hard to beat. It offers room for four—five if they're friendly—more than 33 cubic feet of cargo space in the bed, and incredibly good fuel economy thanks to the base model's driveline. It's a gas-electric hybrid, one that generates 191 horsepower through the front wheels via a continuously variable automatic transmission. With a 1,500-pound payload and a 2,000-pound towing capacity, it can easily handle most of life's chores, while returning the sort of fuel economy you'd never expect from a pickup. We'll get to that in a moment.

If you need more from your Maverick, Ford has you covered. The company's 2.0-liter EcoBoost four-cylinder engine and eight-speed automatic transmission is optional. Rated at 250 horsepower, this engine doubles the Maverick's towing capacity to 4,000 pounds, although payload remains unchanged. All-wheel drive is available with the gas engine, but not the hybrid. All drivelines come with Normal, Eco, Sport, Slippery and Tow/Haul drive modes, although adding the FX4 Off-Road Package—optional on the XLT and Lariat—brings with it Mud/Ruts and Sand modes.

But the value goes beyond the driveline. Offered in three trim levels, base XL, mid-level XLT, and top-of-the-line Lariat, the Maverick shares its platform with the Ford Escape and Bronco Sport—at least from the B-pillar forward. With handsome, restrained styling, the Maverick's appearance will wear well, and doesn't look soft or petite. At slightly less than 200 inches in length, it's sanely sized, something that can't always be said of its slab-sided full-sized brethren. This makes it far more maneuverable in urban settings and parking lots, able to easily handle the cut and thrust of commuting. Steering is relatively quick with some road feel, and the suspension keeps rebound in check over bumps.

### NUTS & BOLTS

- **Base price:** $19,995
- **Engine:** 2.5-liter Atkinson-Cycle four-cylinder
- **Motor:** Permanent magnet electric traction
- **Total system horsepower:** 191
- **Length/Width/Height:** 199.7/72.6/68.7 inches
- **Ground clearance:** 8.3 inches
- **Payload:** 1,500 pounds
- **Cargo capacity:** 33.3 cubic feet
- **Towing capacity:** 2,000 pounds

And it's a sprightly performer as well. The hybrid's electric power provides a smooth, strong stream of power. Driving as I usually do returns fuel economy of 35 mpg in mixed driving. Placing it in Eco mode and practicing hypermiling saw the Maverick return a stunning 51 mpg. And this from a truck that can also haul 500 pounds of 4x8 sheets of plywood, 1,000 pounds of cement or tow a trailer loaded with a pair of jet skis. The 2.0-liter gas engine's performance is noticeably stronger, but fuel economy drops to the mid-20s. And it lacks the unearthly smoothness of the hybrid. Unless you need the towing power or all-wheel drive, skip it.

And as capable as this truck is, the cabin is very accommodating. Given its segment, the cabin feels most natural in its lower trim levels. There's an honesty to the interior that's refreshing. The leather-lined Lariat, while extravagantly equipped, feels out of place somehow, like a striver. Indeed, there's something refreshing about a truck with a manual driver's seat and ordinary rearview mirror. Its cloth seats have durable fabric with an attractive mix of color. Even in base trim, you never feel like you settled for less. Here, textured plastic isn't disguised as something it's not, it's just textured plastic.

Oh, about value. Even base models come well-equipped with an eight-inch center-stack touchscreen with Apple Car Play and Android Auto compatibility standard. You'll also get 12-volt power outlets, automatic headlamps, a 4G LTE Wi-Fi hotspot, LED headlamps, rear under-seat storage bins, a rearview camera, remote keyless entry, power windows and door locks, steering wheel audio controls, a tilt/telescoping steering wheel and power windows. A 4.2-inch instrument cluster screen is standard; a 6.5-inch screen is optional.

Similarly, the bed is engineered to make a life of hauling far easier. The 4.5-foot bed, about the same length as the 1925 Ford Model T's pickup bed, is fitted with six cargo bed tie-down hooks, side storage cubbies on XLT, Lariat, provisions for bed dividers and two-tiered loading, a multi-position tailgate with bottle openers. An LED cargo light and 110-volt AC power outlets are available, as are a number of aftermarket accessories, including bedliners, tie-down cleats, bed covers and more. Best of all, the bed is easy to reach while standing outside.

The Maverick proves to be a very compelling proposition, a product whose merits are very hard to ignore. Yes, it faces competition from the new Hyundai Santa Cruz, a truck that's more a lifestyle statement than a true pickup. In contrast, the Maverick is the real deal: a truck that works hard and plays hard without breaking a sweat, and looks good while doing it. Compared to a cramped economy sedan or a Lilliputian crossover, the Maverick is clearly the best choice in an affordable vehicle. And when it's the least expensive new Ford you can buy, as well as its most fuel efficient.

Even if you never thought you'd need a pickup, the Maverick will convince you otherwise.

# What's that shudder?

**Q Every now and then when coming to stop signs the brakes on my 2014 Hyundai Sonata will shudder. The dealer mechanic tells me my pads are OK. Is this something I should be concerned about? Is it a dangerous condition?**

A Occasional shuddering is no big deal. But at your car's age, you may be ready for a brake job. A complete brake job—rather than just replacement pads—includes all the essential hardware (pins, shims, anti-rattle clips etc.). I have a hunch your shudder will be gone for good.

**Q I have a 2006 Lexus SC430 with 74,000 miles on it. Recently I replaced run-flats with new standard tires, which were aligned and balanced. Front struts were also recently replaced. Between 55-70 mph only, there is some vibration in the steering wheel. This also occurred prior to the new tires but is less pronounced with the new tires and is not always constant. Any ideas as to the source of the vibration?**

A Vibration at a specific speed is almost always due to imbalance. But other factors may be the cause. For instance, one of the wheels may not be true. The wheel hub may be a contributor. Or, one of the new tires may be the problem. Have your shop swap the front tires to the rear and see if the vibration goes away or moves to the rear of the vehicle. Otherwise, a suspension inspection is called for.

**Q I thought I would pass along my experience with random TPMS warnings popping up. I discovered that those USB chargers that go into the 12-volt socket trigger an alarm. I plugged in the device and after a while the low-pressure alarm came on. Unplugging the device would, after a few minutes of driving over 20 miles per hour, reset the alarm. The solution came to me after maybe a dozen trips to the dealer for recalibration of the tire sensors. When I picked up my vehicle, the USB charger was unplugged and laying in the cup holder. They never wrote it up on the service ticket or mentioned the USB device to me when picking up the car, but eventually I would need the charger and plug it back in and would get a low tire alarm shorty after.**

A We have recently had several readers reporting mysterious low tire pressure warnings and you may have solved the mystery. By the way, with colder temperatures coming, your tires' cold inflation pressures may drop. Pressure usually drops about one psi for every 10-degree drop in outside temperature. Be sure to bring the tires up to the proper cold inflation pressure shown on the sticker at the driver's door.

**Q I recently walked away from my 2018 GMC Acadia and carried the key fob with me. The car automatically locks itself, and under normal circumstances this is fine. However, in this instance a passenger was in locked in the vehicle and could not exit. I had no idea that the passenger could not unlock the car from the inside. Warnings about this were not explicit either from the manual or the dealership.**

A All vehicles are supposed to have a means of manually unlocking the doors from the inside. Otherwise, as you discovered, a person could be trapped. Try this: Pull the door handle once. This usually releases the lock. Pull it again and the door will usually open.

## MOTORMOUTH

By BOB WEBER
Tribune News Service

*Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. Send questions along with name and town to motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.*

# Life & Style

## Craig's final Bond takes $56 million at domestic box office

By LINDSEY BAHR
AP FILM WRITER

After over 18 months of pandemic delays, "No Time to Die" opened on target. The final James Bond film of the Daniel Craig era grossed $56 million from 4,407 North American theaters, according to studio estimates on Sunday, to easily take the first-place spot.

It didn't break any pandemic or 007 records, but it didn't fall significantly short either and is in fact the fourth-best opening in the 25-film series. James Bond isn't Marvel when it comes to opening weekends. Bond has always had an older audience which is typically less inclined to rush out for the first weekend. In fact, the best Bond opening ever didn't even crack $100 million. It was $88.4 million for "Skyfall" which debuted to in 2012.

"It's been a long time coming to get this movie on the big screen," said Erik Lomis, the head of distribution for United Artists Releasing. "It's right where we thought it would be and right where tracking predicted it would be."

JOEL C RYAN/INVISION/AP
Lashana Lynch, from left, Daniel Craig, Lea Seydoux and Cary Joji Fukunaga pose for photographers upon arrival for the World premiere of the new film from the James Bond franchise 'No Time To Die', in London Tuesday, Sept. 28, 2021.

Cary Joji Fukunaga directed this installment, which co-stars Lea Seydoux, Ben Whishaw, Naomie Harris, Ana de Armas, Lashana Lynch and Rami Malek, as the antagonist. Both critics and audiences have responded positively (84% on Rotten Tomatoes and an A- CinemaScore). According to exit data, audiences were heavily male (64%) and over 35 (57%).

"I'm just really, really relieved that it's in the cinemas and people are getting a chance to see it," Craig said Sunday from the Charlotte Motor Speedway. "I am incredibly proud of it, as I am of all the movies, but I was just desperate for people to go and see this in a big group, like coming here today. It's what we do. We're a social species, we need to get together."

Craig was the honorary starter at the NASCAR playoff race where he waved the green flag.

Unlike many films released during the pandemic, a streaming or hybrid release was never even a consideration for "No Time to Die." In addition to being the longest Bond film ever at two hours and 43 minutes, it was also an expensive one with a reported production budget of around $250 million. And that doesn't include marketing costs, which reportedly exceeded $100 million.

"Michael Wilson and Barbara Broccoli are huge believers in the theatrical experience," Lomis said of the film's producers. "They delivered us a terrific movie and together we held it for theatrical. That was hugely important to us, to them and to the theater owners. And when you see this kind of result, it's very gratifying."

According to North American distributor United Artists Releasing, 25% of moviegoers returned to theaters for the first time in 18 months this weekend, suggesting that the film will have legs.

"That, I thought, was a pretty significant statistic," Lomis added.

He said he's been getting calls from theater owners around the country saying that audiences have been regularly applauding at the end of the movie.

## Paul McCartney: John Lennon responsible for Beatle breakup

**LONDON** (AP)—Paul McCartney has revisited the breakup of The Beatles, flatly disputing the suggestion that he was responsible for the group's demise.

Speaking on an episode of BBC Radio 4's "This Cultural Life" that is scheduled to air on Oct. 23, McCartney said it was John Lennon who wanted to disband The Beatles.

"I didn't instigate the split," McCartney said. "That was our Johnny."

The band's fans have long debated who was responsible for the breakup, with many blaming McCartney. But McCartney said Lennon's desire to "break loose" was the main driver behind the split.

Confusion about the breakup was allowed to fester because their manager asked the band members to keep quiet until he concluded a number of business deals, McCartney said.

The interview comes ahead Peter Jackson's six-hour documentary chronicling the final months of the band. "The Beatles: Get Back," set for release in November on Disney+, is certain to revisit the breakup of the legendary band. McCartney's comments were first reported by The Observer.

When asked by interviewer John Wilson about the decision to strike out on his own, McCartney retorted: "Stop right there. I am not the person who instigated the split. Oh no, no, no. John walked into a room one day and said, 'I am leaving The Beatles.' Is that instigating the split, or not?"

McCartney expressed sadness over the breakup, saying the group was still making "pretty good stuff."

"This was my band, this was my job, this was my life. So I wanted it to continue," McCartney said.

## Clooney nixes political career, sees US recovery post-Trump

**LONDON** (AP)—George Clooney on Sunday ruled out having a second career in politics, saying he would rather have a "nice life" and is looking to reduce his workload.

Nevertheless, the 60-year-old actor and director waded into politics during an interview with the BBC's Andrew Marr. Clooney, a long-time supporter of U.S. President Joe Biden, described America as a country that is still recovering from the damage caused by Donald Trump.

When asked whether he had any intentions of running for office, Clooney was quick to dismiss the idea.

"No, because I would actually like to have a nice life," said Clooney, who appeared on the show to promote his new movie, "The Tender Bar."

Clooney said he planned to take on fewer projects while he is healthy and can still "play basketball and do the things I love."

"I turned 60 this year and I had a conversation with my wife and we were working a lot, as we both do, and I said we have to think of these as the halcyon years," he said. "In 20 years, I will be 80 and that's a real number. Doesn't matter how much you work out, what you eat, you're 80 and so I said we have to make sure we enjoy and live these years in the best possible way."

Clooney shrugged off concerns about Biden's sagging poll numbers, saying the president is still struggling with Trump's legacy.

## New neighbors are quick to draw the line

DEAR ABBY: When the house next door sold, we were delighted to have new neighbors. My husband and I greeted them with a welcome gift. They asked us three times about the property line, and we showed them the marker. They asked the people on the other side, as well as those in the back of them. Shortly after, they put a barrier between us and a fence at the other property line. Now they have installed stakes and a string so everyone will know where their property is. They seem to be obsessed with property lines and they keep to themselves.

When my husband mows the lawn, they stand outdoors watching to make sure he stays on our property. It's very uncomfortable to be outside when they are. When they are on their deck, I feel like an intruder, so I don't go out on my deck anymore. We have no children and mind our own business.

We have great relationships with our other neighbors. It's sad having such standoffish neighbors. They treat everyone in the neighborhood this way. I love our neighborhood. However, it's uncomfortable having semi-friendly people next door. Abby, what say you about such friendly yet unfriendly neighbors? They make it plain that they don't want anyone putting a foot on their property.

UNHAPPY NEXT DOOR

**DEAR UNHAPPY: Your new neighbors, for whatever reason, are antisocial. When they come out to watch your husband mow the lawn, he should give them a friendly wave and concentrate on what he's doing. If you feel that by using YOUR deck you are "intruding" on them, install plants or some other barrier to shelter you from their view. It is important for your own sake that you teach yourself to accept this couple for who they are rather than who you would like them to be.**

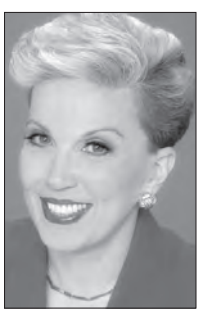
**DEAR ABBY:** I've been married for 38 years and have three grown kids and three grandkids. My wife is a teacher, and my kids are doing well. I have always been unfaithful throughout the marriage. My wife and kids suspect it but none of them say anything about it. I can't live like this anymore. I feel very guilty, and I want to move to another country—my home country. Should I tell my wife about all my affairs, that I'm seeing someone else and that I don't want to be with her?

READY IN NEW JERSEY

**DEAR READY: And what's the alternative? Would it be that you will change your ways, forgo the philandering you have engaged in for the last 38 years of your marriage, and remain in the U.S.? Somehow, I doubt it.**

### DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

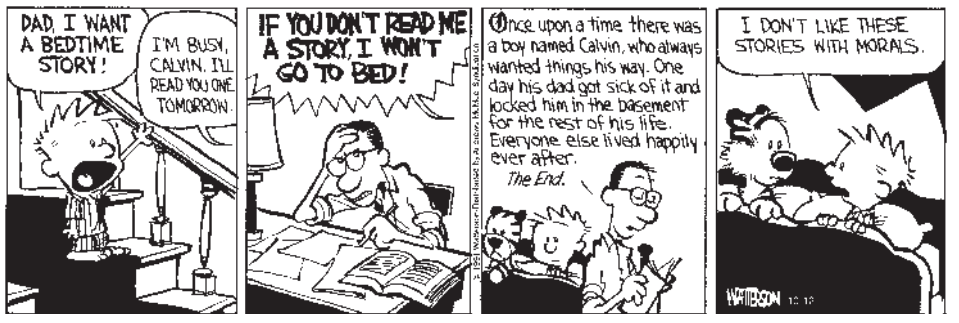
**Yes, you should level with your wife. And when you do, do not delude yourself into thinking she'll be pleased to hear her marriage has been a lie from the beginning. And don't expect your children to respect you for the choices you have made—and are making. You owe it to your wife to ensure that she will be financially secure after you go galloping off. Considering what you are planning, it may be the only way you'll be able to look yourself in the eye when you groom yourself every day.**

*Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)*

# Pastimes

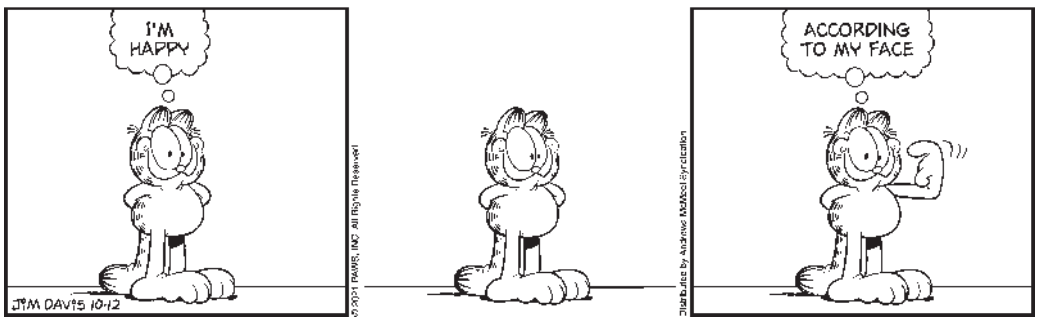
## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


DAD, I WANT A BEDTIME STORY!
I'M BUSY, CALVIN. I'LL READ YOU ONE TOMORROW.
IF YOU DON'T READ ME A STORY, I WON'T GO TO BED!
Once upon a time there was a boy named Calvin, who always wanted things his way. One day his dad got sick of it and locked him in the basement for the rest of his life. Everyone else lived happily ever after.
The End.
I DON'T LIKE THESE STORIES WITH MORALS.
WATTERSON

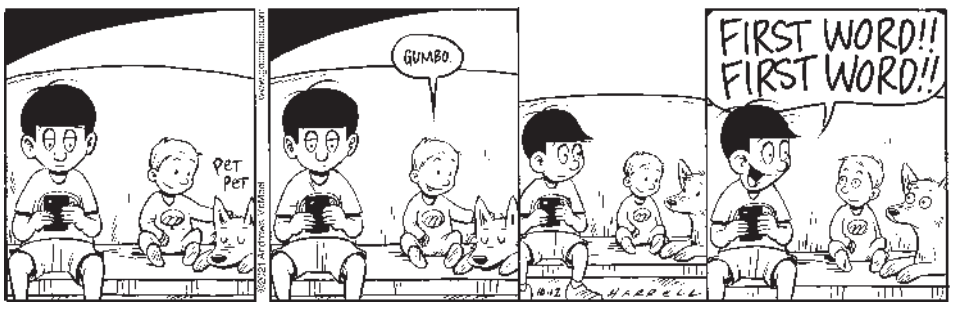
## Garfield®

By Jim Davis




## Adam@Home

By Bryan Basset




## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Praiseful pieces
5 Optimum
9 Stitch
12 Anti-fur org.
13 Opera house solo
14 Salt Lake athlete
15 Reduce
17 Big D.C. lobby
18 Aspiring atty.'s exam
19 Glowing coal
21 Fable writer
24 Italian "dear"
25 Hammer part
26 "Delta of Venus" author
30 Cacophony
31 Tempest
32 Sgt., e.g.
33 Burial chamber
35 Bank charges
36 Related
37 Eccentric
38 Big brass
40 Drudge
42 — glance
43 Steakhouse amenities
48 Filing aid
49 Norwegian saint
50 Klutzes
51 Bashful
52 Thinker Descartes
53 Tibetan herd

**DOWN**

1 Chances, for short
2 Calendar abbr.
3 Greek H
4 Yellowish
5 Rum cake
6 Part of Q.E.D.
7 Bracketed word
8 Point
9 Victorian hat
10 To be, in Toulon
11 Sport
16 Sixth sense
20 "— Doubtfire"
21 Outlet letters
22 Director Kazan
23 Eartha Kitt classic
24 Sugar or starch, for short
26 Loads
27 Paris appellation
28 "Rhyme Pays" rapper
29 Prying
31 Type of kick
34 Wanted poster abbr.
35 Ardent devotee
37 Physique
38 Skin art
39 Six-sided state
40 Blueprint
41 Roof overhang
44 Pub pint
45 Small battery
46 "Bobby" subj.
47 Snake's warning

**Solution time: 22 mins.**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| E | M | M | A | ■ | S | K | I | ■ | T | S | A | R |
| T | A | I | L | S | P | I | N | ■ | U | L | N | A |
| C | R | O | U | T | O | N | S | ■ | P | A | I | R |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | M | A | T | ■ | T | R | E | B | L | E |
| S | C | A | N | T | ■ | - | A | ■ | L | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| C | O | P | A | ■ | W | O | N | ¯ | O | N | S | ■ |
| H | O | E | ■ | A | O | R | T | A | ■ | E | I | N |
| ■ | T | R | I | T | O | N | S | ■ | R | E | D | O |
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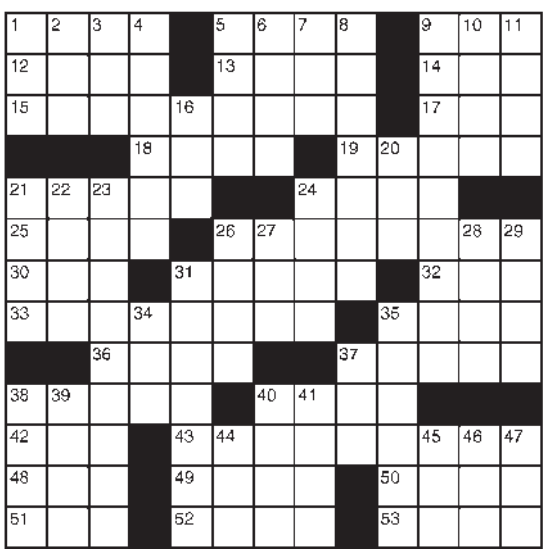
| D | R | O | I | D | S | ■ | L | ■ | P | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| O | H | N | O | ■ | M | E | G | A | I | O | N | S |
| I | - | E | M | ■ | E | M | B | O | L | D | E | N |
| S | A | S | S | ■ | N | ¸ | T | ■ | Y | O | W | L |

**Yesterday's answer 10-12**



**STUMPED?** For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Emily Deschanel, 45; Jane Krakowski, 53; Lennie James, 56; Joan Cusack, 59.

**Happy Birthday:** Make adjustments that make a difference. Expand your interests or master a skill that will ease the stress of buying you freedom or peace of mind. Enjoy the people who put a smile on your face, and put an end to debilitating situations. It's up to you to look out for your best interest. Don't procrastinate; act now. Your numbers are 7, 15, 21, 26, 34, 39, 42.

**ARIES** *(March 21-April 19):* You can advance if you are willing to make a move. Consider what you need to brush up on to ensure your qualifications and skills won't let you down. Preparation will lead to self-satisfaction. Personal gain looks promising. ✪✪

**TAURUS** *(April 20-May 20):* Confusion will set in regarding money, joint ventures, and dealing with institutions, government agencies or medical issues. Be persistent, and get to the bottom of matters before it's too late. Don't let someone take over. Handle matters yourself. ✪✪✪✪

**GEMINI** *(May 21-June 20):* Take a chance and explore what interests you, and you will discover something remarkable. It's up to you to provide what makes you feel good and keeps you content. You have more options than you realize. Personal growth and love are encouraged. ✪✪✪

**CANCER** *(June 21-July 22):* Slow down, view what's happening around you, think outside the box and make decisions that suit your needs. Get along with your peers, but don't share information that might incriminate you. You are better off separating your personal and professional lives. ✪✪✪

**LEO** *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Listen, and you'll find out something that can help you better understand someone you love. Reach out to those you share work, expenses or common interests with, and the information received will help you decide which path you want to pursue. ✪✪✪✪✪

**VIRGO** *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Be careful how you treat those close to you. A lack of empathy will turn into a battle. Focus on self-improvement instead of trying to change someone else. Personal growth will help you accept others, regardless of their shortcomings. ✪✪

**LIBRA** *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Know what you are up against, then forge ahead. Take charge of whatever situation you face, and work diligently toward a goal that will put a smile on your face. Stick to a budget, and use intelligence to excel. ✪✪✪✪

**SCORPIO** *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Think twice before you take on something you cannot afford. Look for alternative ways to satisfy your needs without giving in to demands or temptation. Keep personal information to yourself. Don't feel obligated to be a follower; do your own thing. ✪✪✪

**SAGITTARIUS** *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Slow down and think. Change may entice you, but going through the proper channels will be necessary if you want to accomplish what you set out to do. Don't trust someone offering shortcuts when you know the journey is what matters. ✪✪✪

**CAPRICORN** *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Think big, but budget wisely. It'll be much easier to keep the peace if you do so without arguing. Take the road less traveled, and implement the changes that make you happy. Choose passive persuasion, not aggressive action. ✪✪✪

**AQUARIUS** *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Talk to an expert before you invest in something risky. Choose to look inward and to make your health and well-being priorities. Once you map out a long-term plan, it will take the pressure off and set your mind at ease. ✪✪✪✪

**PISCES** *(Feb. 19-March 20):* An emotional incident will confuse you. Go about your business, take care of responsibilities and give unstable situations a chance to settle. Keeping busy will allow you to mull over concerns and come up with a rational solution. ✪✪

**Birthday Baby:** You are engaging, resourceful and outspoken. You are convincing and persistent.

*✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.*

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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# SUDOKU

**Conceptis Sudoku** *By Dave Green*

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | | 5 | | 9 | | | | |
| | | | 5 | | 4 | | | |
| 7 | | | | 3 | | 2 | | 1 |
| | 4 | 2 | | 6 | | | | |
| | | 8 | | | | 7 | | |
| | | | | 5 | | 1 | 9 | |
| 4 | | 3 | | 7 | | | | 6 |
| | | | 3 | | 2 | | | |
| | | | | 4 | | 8 | | 5 |

Difficulty Level ★★ 10/12

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

**Yesterday's Answer**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 9 | 7 | 6 | 3 |
| 3 | 6 | 9 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 8 | 4 |
| 7 | 1 | 8 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 9 |
| 6 | 8 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 9 | 1 | 2 |
| 4 | 2 | 1 | 9 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 3 | 5 |
| 9 | 5 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 6 |
| 8 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 1 |
| 2 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 9 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 8 |
| 1 | 9 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 7 |

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## WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

**PSYCHOLOGY 101** **Solution: 8 letters**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| E | S | S | A | Y | N | O | I | S | S | E | R | P | E | D |
| I | N | T | R | O | D | U | C | T | I | O | N | D | E | E |
| N | N | V | R | E | C | O | G | N | I | Z | E | V | V | A |
| S | E | T | I | E | I | R | Y | R | O | M | E | M | I | L |
| T | U | F | E | R | A | R | E | N | I | L | N | O | T | R |
| R | R | U | A | R | O | T | T | D | O | I | T | T | I | E |
| U | O | N | E | E | A | N | M | P | I | S | N | I | N | D |
| C | L | C | H | M | E | Ⓒ | M | E | G | T | E | O | G | R |
| T | O | T | N | M | Ⓐ | E | T | E | N | R | M | N | O | O |
| O | G | I | M | Ⓢ | N | N | S | I | N | T | E | O | C | S |
| R | I | O | Ⓔ | T | T | O | R | U | O | T | G | P | O | I |
| E | C | N | A | I | C | O | P | E | P | N | A | A | A | D |
| A | A | L | A | I | O | A | T | A | D | M | N | L | I | P |
| C | L | R | A | E | V | R | E | S | B | O | A | R | D | N |
| H | T | L | A | E | H | L | A | T | N | E | M | C | S | E |

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Board, Campus, Case, Cognitive, Comment, Cope, Credit, Data, Deal, Depression, Developmental, Disorder, Environmental, Essay, Function, Gain, Instructor, Interaction, Introduction, List, Management, Memory, Mental Health, Modern, Mood, Motion, Name, Neurological, Observe, Online, Paper, Reach, Recognize, Social, Theory, Trait, Treatment

**Yesterday's Answer: Headlines**

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 47 through 62 order on line at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

# Red Sox bounce Rays in 13 on odd call

AP

Boston Red Sox right fielder Hunter Renfroe (10) leaps as the ball, hit by Tampa Bay Rays Kevin Kiermaier, bounces over the wall for a ground rule double during the thirteenth inning during Game 3 of a baseball American League Division Series, Sunday, Oct. 10, 2021, in Boston.

**BOSTON** (AP)—Kevin Kiermaier's line drive sailed over right fielder Hunter Renfroe's head and bounced off the short wall in front of the Boston bullpen and back onto the warning track. It ricocheted off Renfroe and into the air.

The Red Sox right fielder waved at it desperately—and unsuccessfully—to keep it from going out of play.

It's a good thing he couldn't.

Saved by an obscure rule and a bounce that was weird even for quirky Fenway Park, the Red Sox staggered Tampa Bay 6-4 Sunday night on Christian Vázquez's 13th-inning walk-off homer to move one victory from eliminating the 100-win Rays from the AL Division Series.

"I was speechless," said center fielder Kiké Hernandez, who had come over to back up Renfroe. "I don't know if you guys have seen that before. I've never seen that before in my life.

"I wasn't sure what was going to get called. I wasn't sure if the runners had to return. ... Like, I had no idea," he said. "Luckily, it went our way. And you call it home-field advantage if you want — call it whatever you want — but we won."

The wild-card Red Sox took a 2-1 edge in the best-of-five matchup. Game 4 is Monday at Fenway -- Marathon Day in Boston -- with Game 5 in St. Petersburg, Florida, on Wednesday, if necessary.

Tampa Bay rallied from a 4-2 deficit to tie it in the eighth inning and it was still 4-all when Yandy Diaz singled with one out in the 13th.

Then came the play that had the umpires scurrying for the rulebook and the Rays scratching their heads.

Diaz was halfway from second to third when Kiermaier's ball bounced over the 5-foot-high wall, and he easily would have scored had it remained in play. But the umpires conferred and went to the headsets before awarding Kiermaier a double and sending Diaz back to third.

Baseball Rule 5.05(a)(8) states: "Any bounding fair ball is deflected by the fielder into the stands, or over or under a fence on fair or foul territory, in which case the batter and all runners shall be entitled to advance two bases."

"If I stayed at second, that's fine," Kiermaier said. "But I was hoping to see that Yandy scored, because he would have scored obviously. … It's incredible that it worked out to their advantage just like that."

Rays manager Kevin Cash said he watched the replay and it was obvious Renfroe didn't knock it over the wall on purpose.

"That's just the rule. That's the way it goes. It was very unfortunate for us," he said. "I think it was fairly obvious that K.K. or Yandy was going to come around to score, but it didn't go our way."

Said umpire crew chief Sam Holbrook: "It's in the rulebook. It's a ground-rule double. There's no discretion that the umpires have."

"There's no, 'He would have done this, would have done that.' It's just flat-out in the rule book, it's a ground-rule double," he said.

When play resumed, Nick Pivetta struck out Mike Zunino to end the inning and came bounding off the mound in celebration.

Renfroe walked with one out in the bottom half, then Vázquez hit the first pitch from Luis Patiño over the Green Monster to end it.

Hernández and Kyle Schwarber each had three hits, including a homer, for Boston.

Hernández singled in the first, singled in the third and homered in the fifth to give him seven consecutive hits in the series. He went 5 for 6 with a home run and three doubles in Boston's Game 2 win, becoming the first Red Sox player ever with four extra-base hits in a postseason game.

Red Sox ace Nate Eovaldi allowed Austin Meadows' two-run homer in the top of the first, but Schwarber led off the bottom half with a home run. Hernández's fifth-inning homer gave Boston a 4-2 lead, but the Rays tied it in the eighth when Wander Franco hit a solo homer and Meadows and Randy Arozarena doubled.

Garrett Whitlock struck out Zunino to end the inning.

With a runner on first in the 10th, J.D. Martinez fouled off five pitches with two strikes and then hit one to straightaway center, where Kiermaier pulled it in right in front of the 379-foot marker. (The wind was blowing in.)

In the 11th, Arozarena stole second and was caught in a rundown on his way to third, but he scrambled back to the bag safely. But he was stranded there when Pivetta struck out Zunino and Jordan Luplow to end the inning.

Boston had a runner on first in the 11th when Hernández hit a chopper into the hole between short and third. Franco went to his right to field it, then made a long throw that first baseman Luplow picked out of the dirt for the third out.

Schwarber, a star of the Cubs' 2016 World Series title who homered in the wild-card game against the Yankees, also singled and scored in the third, when Boston scored a pair of runs to chase Drew Rasmussen and take a 3-2 lead. He singled in the ninth before leaving for a pinch-runner.

But it was Schwarber's play in the field that endeared him to the Fenway fans.

After earning an error when he lobbed the ball over pitcher Nathan Eovaldi's head on a grounder in the third inning, Schwarber was tested on a similar play made a more accurate toss in the fourth.

He celebrated by raising both arms in the air and giving a fist pump, then tipping his cap to the cheering fans. Schwarber turned toward the dugout and laughed.

# García, Grandal star as White Sox beat Astros 12-6 in ALDS

**CHICAGO** (AP)—Two big swings by pint-sized Leury García. A rule-testing run by Yasmani Grandal. Solid relief work from Liam Hendriks and company.

Right when the Chicago White Sox got in big trouble, they found a way.

García and Grandal homered, and Grandal's borderline baserunning helped the White Sox top the Houston Astros 12-6 on Sunday night to stay alive in their AL Division Series.

Backed by a boisterous crowd of 40,288, the AL Central champions erased a 5-1 deficit in the franchise's first home playoff game in 13 years, trimming Houston's series edge to 2-1. Tim Anderson collected three more hits, and Ryan Tepera started a stellar finish for Chicago's bullpen after Dylan Cease and Michael Kopech (1-0) struggled.

"It's a real tough-minded bunch," White Sox manager Tony La Russa said, "and sometimes you get rewarded with a comeback like that."

Houston was hoping to sweep its way into its fifth consecutive appearance in the AL Championship Series. The AL West champions got off to a fast start behind Kyle Tucker, but they went down in order in the last five innings.

Game 4 of the best-of-five series is scheduled for Monday afternoon, but there is rain in the forecast.

"I don't say anything to them. They know. They know the importance of tomorrow," Astros manager Dusty Baker said. "They know the importance of today. These guys have been here many, many times."

The playoff-tested Astros rolled into Chicago after a pair of impressive victories at home, then jumped out to a 5-1 lead in Game 3. The sweet-swinging Tucker hit a two-run double off Cease in the second and a two-run homer off Kopech in the third.

Houston's fast start silenced the towel-waving crowd, but it got revved up again in the bottom half of the third.

After Grandal's two-run shot just over the wall in left made it 5-3, Yoán Moncada and Gavin Sheets reached on two-out singles. Leury García then looked at two balls from Luis Garcia before Baker replaced his starting pitcher with Yimi García (0-1).

The winner of the Garcia trilogy was Leury, listed at 5-foot-8 and 190 pounds. The versatile veteran drove a 3-1 pitch from Yimi García deep to center for a 436-foot homer.

"I mean that ball was scalded," La Russa said.

The game was tied at 6 when the White Sox went ahead to stay with three runs in the fourth—highlighted by a memorable run by Grandal that rankled Baker and the Astros.

After José Abreu's tiebreaking RBI single put runners on the corners with none out, Grandal hit a bouncer to Yuli Gurriel at first. Gurriel tried to come home, but his throw went went off Grandal as the catcher sprinted up the line in the infield grass.

"I wish I could tell you it was a heads-up play," Grandal said. "I was just trying to get to first. It takes me a long time to get there."

Luis Robert scored, taking out umpire Tom Hallion in the process, and Gurriel was charged with an error. The Astros lobbied for an interference call on Grandal, but the umpires huddled and left the play in place.

Baker then had a long argument with Hallion before returning to the dugout.

"Clearly, he was running inside," Baker said. "I mean, that's interference, you know, in itself. That was a big play because we didn't get an out."

The 77-year-old La Russa, who became the oldest manager in major league history to win a postseason game, said the umpires made the correct call.

"I guarantee you that there was no intent to interfere with that play. I can guarantee it," La Russa said.

Eloy Jiménez capped the big fourth with his second RBI single, and the White Sox put it away with three more runs in the eighth. Leury García doubled in Andrew Vaughn and scored on Anderson's single.

The 16-hit attack for Chicago — a franchise postseason record — overshadowed perfect relief by Ryan Tepera, Aaron Bummer, Craig Kimbrel and Hendriks. Tepera worked two innings before Bummer got five outs. Kimbrel got the last out of the eighth before Hendriks finished.

"All I can say really is it was a lot of fun," Tepera said.

Anderson has 16 hits in six career playoff games, the most by any player in a six-game postseason span.

Carlos Rodón starts Game 4 for the White Sox. Rodón went 13-5 with a 2.37 ERA in 24 starts this year, but he was limited down the stretch because of shoulder soreness and fatigue. The Astros will start José Urquidy, who was 8-3 with a 3.62 ERA in 20 starts.

# After 3 misses, Crosby kicks OT winner; Packers top Bengals

**CINCINNATI** (AP)—Mason Crosby hit a 49-yard field goal in overtime after missing three straight attempts, lifting the Green Bay Packers to a wild 25-22 win over the Cincinnati Bengals on Sunday.

The typically reliable Crosby missed potential winners with 2:12 and then 3 seconds left in regulation, and missed another attempt in overtime before finally winning it. Heading into the game he was 44 of 46 on field-goal attempts since the start of the 2019 season.

Crosby, who missed an extra-point earlier in the game and also made three field goals, came in having converted all six field-goal attempts and 11 PATs this year.

The Bengals' Evan McPherson also missed kicks that could have won the game, with 26 seconds left in regulation and again in overtime.

The Bengals (3-2) tied the score late in the fourth period. Ja'Marr Chase made a nice catch on third-and-6 from the Packers 36 for 19 yards, and two plays later Joe Mixon bounced right for an 8-yard touchdown run. Joe Burrow hit Tee Higgins in the back of the end zone for the 2-point conversion with 3:27 left.

Green Bay's Aaron Rodgers threw two touchdown passes to move into fifth place on the all-time list, finishing 27 of 39 for 344 yards and an interception. Davante Adams had 11 catches for a career-high 206 yards as the Packers (4-1) won their fourth straight since losing the opener to New Orleans.

Burrow was 25 for 38 for 260 yards and took a beating from the Green Bay defense. He threw scoring passes to Samaje Perine and Ja'Marr Chase.

AP

Green Bay Packers kicker Mason Crosby (2) is congratulated by wide receiver Randall Cobb (18) after kicking the winning field goal during overtime in an NFL football game against the Cincinnati Bengals in Cincinnati, Sunday, Oct. 10, 2021.

### Bills 38, Chiefs 20

In Kansas City, Mo., Josh Allen threw three touchdown passes and ran for another score, sending the Buffalo Bills to a victory over the Chiefs in an AFC title game rematch delayed more than an hour by lightning.

Allen finished with 315 yards through the air, and Micah Hyde returned a rare interception of Patrick Mahomes 26 yards for another score, as the Bills (4-1) beat the turnover-prone Chiefs (2-3) for only the second time in their last seven meetings.

Mahomes finished with 272 yards passing and two touchdowns to go with two interceptions and a lost fumble. He also wound up being the leading rusher for the Chiefs with 61 yards as they struggled to get going offensively.

### Chargers 47, Browns 42

In Inglewood, Calif., Austin Ekeler scored three touchdowns, including a 3-yarder with 1:31 remaining, and Los Angeles beat Cleveland in a wild shootout.

Justin Herbert had 398 yards passing and tied a career-high with four touchdowns. Mike Williams had 165 receiving yards and caught two TD passes for the Chargers, off to their first 4-1 start since 2014.

The game saw one tie and eight lead changes, including four lead changes in the final 15 minutes when the teams combined for 41 points.

Ekeler finished with 119 scrimmage yards (66 rushing, 53 receiving). Los Angeles has won three straight and leads the AFC West after losses by Denver and Las Vegas.

### Buccaneers 45, Dolphins 17

In Tampa, Fla., Tom Brady threw for 411 yards and five touchdowns, Antonio Brown became the fastest NFL player to 900 receptions, and Tampa Bay rolled past Miami.

Brady threw for more 400 yards with five TDs in the same game for the first time in his 22-year career.

Brown scored on receptions of 62 and 4 yards, joining Julio Jones, Jerry Rice, Torry Holt and Andre Johnson as the only players in league history with 12,000 career receiving yards in fewer than 150 games. The 33-year-old receiver extended the NFL's longest active streak with at least one catch to 141 consecutive games and also became the fastest to 900 career receptions on his first catch of the day.

Brown reached the milestone in 143 career games. Hall of Famer Marvin Harrison was the previous fastest at 149.

### Cardinals 17, 49ers 10

In Glendale, Ariz., Arizona improved to 5-0 for the first time since 1974, using a stellar defensive performance to beat San Francisco.

DeAndre Hopkins hauled in a difficult 9-yard touchdown catch with 5:13 remaining, hanging onto the ball despite tight defense from San Francisco's Josh Norman. That gave the Cardinals a 17-7 lead, enough of a cushion to close out the win.

Kyler Murray completed 22 of 31 passes for 239 yards. Hopkins caught six passes for 87 yards.

### Saints 33, Washington 22

In Landover, Md., Jameis Winston connected on a Hail Mary for one of his four touchdown passes to help New Orleans beat Washington, a bounce-back victory that came at a cost with two more injuries.

Winston took every snap at quarterback for the first time this season, a necessity after Taysom Hill suffered a concussion while trying to catch a pass in the second quarter.

Winston completed a 72-yard touchdown pass to Deonte Harris, who departed with a hamstring injury. He also connected with Marquez Callaway on the 49-yard Hail Mary TD on the final play of the first half, found Callaway wide open from 12 yards out and sent Washington fans to the exits with a pass to Alvin Kamara that turned into a 19-yard score.

### Bears 20, Raiders 9

In Las Vegas, Justin Fields threw his first career touchdown pass, and Chicago's defense largely shut down Las Vegas' high-powered offense.

Damien Williams rushed for a touchdown in the Las Vegas debut for the Bears (3-2).

Derek Carr passed for 206 yards and Josh Jacobs rushed for a late touchdown in the second straight loss for the Raiders (3-2) — their first with fans in the stands at 2-year-old Allegiant Stadium.

Jesper Horsted caught the first TD pass by Fields, who went 12 of 20 for 111 yards in the touted Ohio State rookie's third career start — his first since being named the Bears' No. 1 quarterback by coach Matt Nagy. The Bears' 32nd-ranked offense managed just 252 yards, but Chicago's defense allowed three points in the first 50 minutes.

### Cowboys 44, Giants 20

In Arlington, Texas, Dak Prescott threw for three touchdowns the day before the one-year anniversary of his severe ankle injury in the same stadium against the same opponent, and Dallas beat New York.

The already injury-plagued Giants lost running back Saquon Barkley to an apparent ankle sprain in the first quarter and quarterback Daniel Jones to a concussion in the second quarter.

After a woozy Jones was taken off on a cart, New York (1-4) pulled even at 10-all on backup QB Mike Glennon's first snap of the season, a fourth-down handoff to Devontae Booker from the 1.

### Steelers 27, Broncos 19

In Pittsburgh, Ben Roethlisberger threw for 253 yards and two touchdowns, rookie Najee Harris ran for a career-best 122 yards and Pittsburgh beat Denver to snap a three-game losing streak.

Riding the kind of balance that's been rare during a sluggish opening month, the Steelers handed the Broncos (3-2) a second straight loss.

Denver fell behind by 18 points in the third quarter before making it close behind quarterback Teddy Bridgewater, who started after spending the week in the NFL's concussion protocol. Bridgewater completed 24 of 38 passes for 288 yards and two fourth-quarter touchdowns. The Broncos' rally ended when Bridgewater was intercepted in the end zone on fourth down.

### Vikings 19, Lions 17

In Minneapolis, Greg Joseph made a 54-yard field goal as time expired, and Minnesota topped winless Detroit after Lions coach Dan Campbell successfully called for the go-ahead 2-point conversion try with 37 seconds left.

Joseph made four field goals, including a career-best 55-yarder, as the Vikings (2-3) casually played the field position game until the extra-safe strategy nearly cost them a must-have victory.

After Joseph's 49-yard attempt with 3:17 remaining strangely fell short, the Lions (0-5) went the other way for Austin Seibert's third field goal to pull within 16-9.

### Eagles 21, Panthers 18

In Charlotte, N.C., Jalen Hurts ran for two second-half touchdowns and Philadelphia rallied from a 12-point deficit to beat Carolina and snap a three-game losing streak.

After T.J. Edwards blocked a Carolina punt, Hurts scored on a 6-yard run with 2:38 left to give the Eagles their first lead of the game.

Carolina's Sam Darnold was intercepted three times, twice by Darius Slay, and sacked three times as the Panthers' offense struggled against an Eagles defense that allowed 83 points and 851 yards in its previous two games.

### Titans 37, Jaguars 19

In Jacksonville, Fla., Derrick Henry ran for 130 yards and three touchdowns, Kevin Byard returned a fumble for a score and Tennessee sent Jacksonville to its 20th consecutive loss.

Henry padded his NFL rushing lead as the Titans (3-2) rebounded from an overtime stunner at the New York Jets and avoided consecutive losses to winless teams.

Jacksonville (0-5) moved into sole position of the second-longest skid in NFL history, six shy of tying the record Tampa Bay set in 1977 over its first two seasons as an expansion team. The franchise's latest debacle came eight days after coach Urban Meyer was captured on camera with a woman dancing near his lap at an Ohio bar, behavior team owner Shad Khan called "inexcusable."

### Patriots 25, Texans 22

In Houston, rookie Mac Jones threw a touchdown pass to tie the game in the fourth quarter, and Nick Folk's 21-yard field goal with 15 seconds left lifted New England over Houston.

New England (2-3) used a 15-play, 85-yard drive capped by Folk's fourth field goal of the game to take the lead. The drive was kept alive when Maliek Collins was flagged for roughing the passer on third-and-18 early in the possession.

Jones threw for 231 yards with a touchdown and an interception as the Patriots ended a two-game skid. He connected with Hunter Henry on a 13-yard touchdown with about nine minutes remaining.

### Jets 27, Falcons 20

In London, Matt Ryan threw for 342 yards and two touchdowns, including the first score for rookie Kyle Pitts, and Atlanta closed out New York in the NFL's return to London.

The Falcons (2-3) built a 20-3 halftime lead and eventually secured the victory despite allowing the Jets to stick around by losing two fumbles.

But Zach Wilson and the Jets (1-4) had trouble moving the ball. Coming off his best game of the season last week against Tennessee, Wilson finished 19 of 32 for 192 yards and no touchdowns with one interception.

# Salcedo is boys singles champion of TakeCare tourney

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Kyle Salcedo won the championship of the boys singles of the TakeCare Badminton Open 2021 after outlasting Marlon Bautista last weekend at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Marianas High School 10th grader edged Bautista in three hard-fought sets, 21-13, 18-21, 11-4, to win the first ever junior title in the organizing Northern Marianas Badminton Association's history.

"My strategy was to try to make my opponent tired or if that doesn't work then I'll watch his movements and try to predict where he'ss gonna hit the shuttle," Salcedo said when asked how he won the finals.

He said taking home the championship of the boys singles division was a really cool experience.

"I felt great winning the champion and I had fun," he said.

The 15-year-old has been playing badminton for fun since he was little with his mother, Jeanne, but finally improved after getting formal training at the TSL Sports Complex with the help of coaches from the NMBA last summer.

"It was introduced to me when I was a kid and I really liked it and I want to learn," he said.

Salcedo earlier booked the first finals seat after vanquishing Bautista, 11-5, 11-5. Bautista rebounded nicely after the semifinal loss after defeating Gregory Ngotel in the loser's bracket finals, 11-10, 11-10. He, however, fell short against Salceda in the championship.

Other participants in the boys singles division are Peter White, Kyle Manuel, Prince Calvo, and Andre Zapata.

In the girls singles, Angieleysha Punzalan and Charmaine Bautista will duke it out in the finals after disposing of separate opponents over the weekend.

Punzalan made it into the championship round following an 11-4, 11-6 victory over Kiesha De Guzman. Her finals opponent, Bautista, advanced after securing a 11-10, 11-7 win over De Guzman in the loser's bracket.

In the boys doubles, Gregory Ngotel and Peter White are also a win away from taking home the first place trophy following their 11-6, 11-10 triumph over Marlon Bautista and Kyle Manuel. They're just awaiting the result of the semifinals duel between Prince Calvo and Andre Zapata and Bautista and Manuel.

In the girls doubles, Mikyla Cunanan and Keisha De Guzman are also a game shy of winning it all after defeating Angel Reyes and Angieleysha Punzalan in the semifinals, 11-9, 7-11, 11-10. The other semifinal showdown in the division will pit Kaya Braxton and Charmaine Bautista against Reyes and Punzalan.

In the junior mixed doubles, Gregory Ngotel and Kaya Braxton advanced to the quarterfinals after subduing Manuel and Punzalan, 11-2, 11-6. Their opponent in the next round will be Marlon Bautista and De Guzman after the duo subdued Peter White and Mikyla Cunanan, 11-9, 11-6.

In the loser's bracket, Prince Calvo and Angel Reyes will play opposite White and Cunanan in the quarterfinals with the winner taking on the loser of the Ngotel-Braxton and Bautista-De Guzman matchup.

Results of the men's singles, men's doubles, women's singles, women's doubles, and mixed doubles across all divisions (A, B, C) will be published in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Kyle Salcedo, seen here in action in Week 1 of TakeCare Badminton Open 2021 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, won the championship of the boys singles division after outlasting Marlon Bautista in the finals last weekend.

## TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

### NFL STANDINGS

**AMERICAN CONFERENCE**

| East | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Buffalo | 4 | 1 | 0 | .800 | 172 | 64 |
| New England | 2 | 3 | 0 | .400 | 96 | 92 |
| Miami | 1 | 4 | 0 | .200 | 79 | 154 |
| N.Y. Jets | 1 | 4 | 0 | .200 | 67 | 121 |
| **South** | | | | | | |
| Tennessee | 3 | 2 | 0 | .600 | 132 | 130 |
| Indianapolis | 1 | 3 | 0 | .250 | 83 | 97 |
| Houston | 1 | 4 | 0 | .200 | 89 | 141 |
| Jacksonville | 0 | 5 | 0 | .000 | 93 | 152 |
| **North** | | | | | | |
| Baltimore | 3 | 1 | 0 | .750 | 105 | 92 |
| Cincinnati | 3 | 2 | 0 | .600 | 114 | 100 |
| Cleveland | 3 | 2 | 0 | .600 | 142 | 114 |
| Pittsburgh | 2 | 3 | 0 | .400 | 94 | 112 |
| **West** | | | | | | |
| L.A. Chargers | 4 | 1 | 0 | .800 | 142 | 116 |
| Denver | 3 | 2 | 0 | .600 | 102 | 76 |
| Las Vegas | 3 | 2 | 0 | .600 | 113 | 120 |
| Kansas City | 2 | 3 | 0 | .400 | 154 | 163 |

**NATIONAL CONFERENCE**

| East | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dallas | 4 | 1 | 0 | .800 | 170 | 117 |
| Philadelphia | 2 | 3 | 0 | .400 | 115 | 124 |
| Washington | 2 | 3 | 0 | .400 | 123 | 155 |
| N.Y. Giants | 1 | 4 | 0 | .200 | 103 | 139 |
| **South** | | | | | | |
| Tampa Bay | 4 | 1 | 0 | .800 | 167 | 122 |
| Carolina | 3 | 2 | 0 | .600 | 115 | 87 |
| New Orleans | 3 | 2 | 0 | .600 | 127 | 91 |
| Atlanta | 2 | 3 | 0 | .400 | 105 | 148 |
| **North** | | | | | | |
| Green Bay | 4 | 1 | 0 | .800 | 120 | 122 |
| Chicago | 3 | 2 | 0 | .600 | 84 | 100 |
| Minnesota | 2 | 3 | 0 | .400 | 113 | 109 |
| Detroit | 0 | 5 | 0 | .000 | 98 | 138 |
| **West** | | | | | | |
| Arizona | 5 | 0 | 0 | 1.000 | 157 | 95 |
| L.A. Rams | 4 | 1 | 0 | .800 | 141 | 116 |
| San Francisco | 2 | 3 | 0 | .400 | 117 | 119 |
| Seattle | 2 | 3 | 0 | .400 | 120 | 126 |

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## HOPWOOD

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reach the finals. FMS went on to finish third in the competition, as it prevailed over SCS in the consolation match (7-1) that was also played last Friday.

Jerome Mettao drained four goals for FMS, while Jose Maratita contributed two, and Christian Lucero added one.

Meanwhile, Hopwood's Mark Costales received the Golden Boot award in the competition after collecting 12 goals this season. He scored in all of Hopwood's five games, logging three apiece in their 8-1 pool play win over Mt. Carmel School and in their semis victory against SCS. Costales is the only player in the league to tally goals in double figures, as the second best scorer in the league—his teammate Lizama—registered only eight goals. Mettao, Jolo, and Omelau are tied for third with seven goals apiece.

## DEV

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came in fourth in 21:16; while MHS' Anthony Bergancia and Marques Dame were fifth and sixth with times of 21:55.33 and 21:55.83, respectively.

Bachani, who won the first qualifier before getting lost in the second qualifier due to a mistaken turnaround, completely dominated Saturday's cross country run for all the marbles.

"It was long and the hills were hard to get going. It's so muddy and so hard to turn but other than that it was good. I was leading the whole time except for maybe 2 seconds," he said.

MHS coach Gabi Race said Bachani showed in the cross country championship how much of an all-around athlete the 15-year-old is.

"They all did so great; I think all six of the MHS boys finished in the Top 10. Dev is an amazing all-around athlete and it was a lot of fun to cheer them all on at the finish line," she said.

Making up the rest of the gold-winning MHS team in the cross country championships are Pony Tang (23:16.22) and Rakin Hassan (23:46).

Like Bachani, Chavez also topped the first qualifier before making the wrong turn in the second qualifier. She redeemed herself by topping last week's qualifier then capped her season with the gold medal in the girls high school cross championships with a time of 22:16. She was followed by teammates Tiana Cabrera and Serin Chung in times of 24:21.32 and 27.08, respectively.

Chavez said last Saturday's cross country championships was a totally different run than a week prior despite being held in the same exact venue.

"It wasn't my best run honestly but at least, yeah, I got the win. It was actually a bit different from last week so it was harder. I knew it was gonna be different and muddier because it rained," she said.

The rest of the gold medal-winning SIS girls high school team are fourth place Sevita Sikkel (27.1), fifth place Stephanie Kim (30:42), and sixth place Audrey Castro (32:37). For landing all six of its runners in the Top 6, the SIS girls high school team got a perfect score of 10.

The Public School System partnered with Northern Marianas Athletics, the governing body of athletics in the CNMI, to organize track and field as well as cross country events in the 2021-22 school year.

## 2021

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due to COVID. We are very disappointed but not surprised by the decision as many Pacific nations are still experiencing high COVID levels, are locked down, or are just coming out of severe outbreaks of the disease. The OTF has stated that they are planning to get back to a more normal schedule in 2022," he said.

Race said he was informed of the cancellations of both the NPRC and POJC by OTF executive director Richard Breen.

"After discussing with [co-executive director] David [Smith] and the [International Tennis Federation] along with the recent cancellation of the West Pacific and East Pacific and cancellation of the subsequent POJC, the North Pacific will also be cancelled for 2021. I know this is disappointing but with the realities of travel and the responses we have received we have decided to err on the side of caution," Breen said in a letter to Race.

The non-playing captain of this year's Pacific Oceania team in the Davis Cup is looking forward to a restart of tennis tournaments in the region next year.

"Hopefully the update for travel from your respective nations looks more promising in 2022. Please can I get a further update on your respective border closures and potential travel as we look to arrange new dates for the Regionals in 2022. We intend these to be as early as reasonably possible. Hopefully we can realistically have them within the first quarter, as this will enable us to make touring team selections early on and plan for these teams to travel and provide some much needed opportunities to compete," said Breen.

Junior netters, who just a week prior were announced to be part of the CNMI's 28-player team to the NPRC, were obviously disappointed with the cancellation of both off-island tournaments.

"I am extremely sad that players like Serin [Chung], David [Kwon], and all the other younger players will not be able to play again this year. This tournament is the only way for players in the Pacific to receive more opportunities so for this tournament to be canceled again is disappointing," said Jimin Woo.

Cody Shimizu seconded Woo, but added that he understood the situation with COVID-19 still raging.

"Yes it's disappointing they had to cancel it again but I understand the situation. With COVID around it will be hard to travel and play with the other participants. Hopefully we will get to play there soon."

Serin Chung said she's crossing her fingers that the NPRC and POJC will return next year.

"I am disappointed since the NPRC was also canceled last year and I was really looking forward to go this year. It's always fun to go off-island and play against people I normally don't play against. Hopefully, the NPRC will not get canceled next year."

Hye Jin Elliott said all her hard work during practice sessions is now for naught.

"I am disappointed because the NPRC has been cancelled many times. We have been practicing and we were looking forward to the competition."

Savita Sikkel shared the same sentiment. "I was looking forward to playing the NPRC this year in Guam and am very disappointed it was cancelled again this year."

Sam Ryu was really sad to hear that the NPRC has been cancelled again this year. "It's extremely tragic news for the qualifiers on Saipan. I hope next year the tournament will proceed as soon as possible so that everyone can play tennis without worrying about future tennis tournaments being cancelled. I hope that COVID will be gone, too."

Sean Lee, for his part, reasoned that during the pandemic it's of utmost importance that the safety of the community comes first before any tennis tournament.

"This is particularly true as many of the locations where the tennis tournaments were to occur have rather limited ability and capacity to take care of COVID-19 patients. As such it would be inappropriate to have any sports tournaments which encourage the spread of this virus as a wide range of athletes from different places perform in these tournaments. Although it is unfortunate that this tournament must be canceled the tournament organizer did their community a solid by thinking of the community's health as the main concern," he said.

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# Hopwood cruises to easy title win

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Hopwood Middle School's Sernante Jimenez kicks the ball in front of two Saipan Community School defenders during their semis game in the boys division of the 2021-2022 NMIFA Interscholastic Soccer League last week at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Hopwood Middle School topped the boys division of the 2021-2022 NMIFA Interscholastic Soccer League after dominating Saipan International School in the finals, 7-0, last Friday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Mark Costales and Tyler Omelau led Hopwood's easy title victory after scoring two goals apiece, while Paul Lizama and Izeah Jolo chipped in one apiece.

Costales handed Hopwood its first goal early when he converted his shot in the sixth minute. Hopwood went on to stretch the advantage to 4-0 at halftime break as SIS continued to fire blanks. Costales got his second goal in the 20th, while Omar and Lizama delivered in the 16th and 19th minute to boost Hopwood's title bid.

At the resumption of the game, Hopwood was still on target, while SIS failed to get out of slump to settle for the runner-up honors. Jolo made it a 5-0 lead for Hopwood in the 35th minute, while Omelau closed out for the Hilitais in the 41st.

The shutout win over SIS completed Hopwood's perfect season. The Hilitais swept their three matches in pool play, beating SIS, Tanapag Middle School, and Mt. Carmel School in Group A. With the unbeaten record in the preliminaries, Hopwood was pitted against Saipan Community School in the semis and won convincingly, 8-0, to notch the semis berth at the top half of the draw.

At the bottom half, the No. 2 seed SIS stunned Group B top-ranked Francisco M. Sablan Middle School in the semis after escaping with a 1-0 win in the penalty shootout to

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# Dev, Kaithlyn strike gold in HS cross country

Bachani

Chavez

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Marianas High School's Dev Bachani and Saipan International School's Kaithlyn Chavez dished out golden performances in the 2021 PSS/NMA Cross Country Championships last Saturday at the old Saipan Country Club golf course behind Saipan Vegas.

Bachani anchored a powerful MHS team in the 5-kilometer run in the boys high school division, crossing the finish line in 20:35. He was followed by teammate Cody Shimizu in 20:47, while SIS' Rex Pixley, last week's winner of the qualifier, settled for third in 20:51.

Grace Christian Academy's Theodre Rodgers, who topped the second qualifier,

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Serin Chung said she's disappointed the North Pacific Regional Championships was canceled again this year as she was really looking forward to go this year.

# 2021 North Pacific Regional Championships cancelled

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Oceania Tennis Federation has cancelled this year's North Pacific Regional Championships in Guam as well as the Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Lautoka, Fiji due to COVID-19, according to Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association president Jeff Race.

"I received notice from the OTF this week that all three of the regional championships as well as the North Pacific Junior Championships have been canceled this year

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